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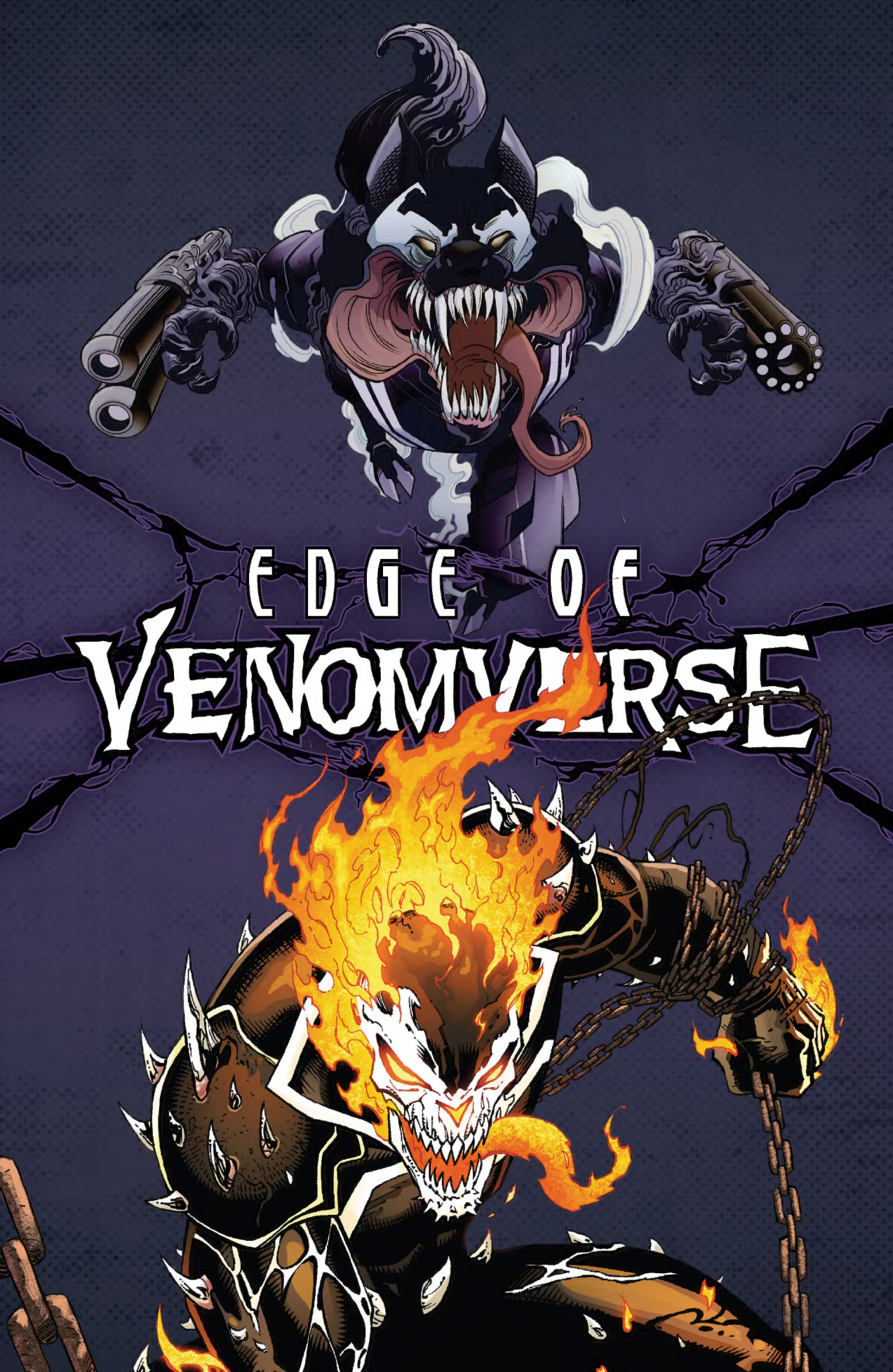
EDGE OF
VENOMVERSE

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EDGE OF VENOMVERSE

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #1

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pencils

Roland Boschi with Adam Gorham
inkers

Daniel Brown
color artist

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #2

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writer

Irene Strychalski
artist

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EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #3

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EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #4

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EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #5

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James Stokoe
artist

Dee Cunniffe
special thanks

VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES #1

"TALES FROM THE FRONT LINE"

Cullen Bunn
writer

Annapaola Martello
artist

Java Tartaglia
color artist

"BLESSING IN DISGUISE"

Nnedi Okorafor
writer

Tana Ford
artist

Ian Herring
color artist

"DEAL WITH THE DEVIL"

Declan Shalvey
writer & artist

Chris O'Halloran
color artist

"3, 2, 1."

Magdalene Visaggio
writer

Alex Arizmendi
artist

Lee Loughridge
color artist

"FORCE MAJEURE"

Aaron Covington
writer

Khary Randolph
artist

Emilio Lopez
color artist

VC's Clayton Cowles and Joe Sabino (*Venomverse: War Stories #1*)
letterers

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cover art

Allison Stock
assistant editor

Devin Lewis & Charles Beacham
editors

Nick Lowe
executive editor

MARVEL
#1
cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY
VENOMVERSE
delgado
MARVEL
INHUMANS
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abc SEPT 29

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.
COMING THROUGH, MEATBAGS!
WATCH YOUR HEADS!
OR DON'T! EITHER WORKS FOR JACK O'LANTERN!
W-WHERE IS HE?
WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO?
EVERY TIME I THINK I'M DONE WITH THIS FREAK, HE COMES BACK FOR MORE!
GUY NEEDS TO LEARN SOME BOUNDARIES!
RESPECT MY TERRITORIAL BUBBLE!
SORRY, JACK.
BUT I GUESS--

MAMA DIDN'T TEACH ME GOOD MANNERS!

OOONNFF!
YOU AND ME, JACK...
...WE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
I WAS GONNA GET AROUND TO YOU SOONER OR LATER.
BUT YOU WANNA SHOW YOUR PUMPKIN IN MY TOWN...WELL, THEN...
...NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY!
O-OKAY...
YOU GOT ME, A-ALL RIGHT?
I GIVE UP! J-JUST TAKE ME IN!
BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE, JACK?
ARE YOU GROWING AS A PERSON?

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU--
YOU'RE A BUTCHER, JACK...
...A SERIAL KILLER...
...A DYED-IN-THE-WOOL MURDERER.
"TAKING YOU IN" ISN'T AN OPTION!
YEEEAA--
KRRRNCH!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
OH, I SAW. SHOULD WE CALL THE COPS?
IS HE--
THWUMP!

GET BACK!
THIS MAN'S DANGEROUS-- A MURDERER!
--THE DUDE'S GOT A PUMPKIN FOR A HEAD!
LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF SUPER VILLAIN TURF WAR!
SOMEBODY SHOULD CALL THE POLICE!
HEY!
DID YOU JUST KILL THAT GUY?
HE'LL LIVE...
...NOT THAT HE DESERVES TO!
UGHHHH.
AND WE...
WE...
...DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...

REEEEEEEEEAAAAAAAAAGGGGGGGH!
WHAT THE--?!
HE IMPLODED!
ANYBODY GET VIDEO OF THAT?

AFTER ONE OF HIS STORIES WAS DISCREDITED BY SPIDER-MAN, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING. READY TO END IT ALL, HE SOUGHT FORGIVENESS AT HIS LOCAL CHURCH –THE VERY SAME CHURCH WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS REJECTING AN AGGRESSIVE AND SENTIENT ALIEN CALLED A ***SYMBIOTE.***

SENSING BROCK'S ANGER, SORROW AND HATRED TOWARD SPIDER-MAN, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH HIM, AND THE TWO BECAME THAT MOST WICKED OF WEB-SLINGERS – ***VENOM!***

BUT THE SLIGHTEST ALTERATION TO THE EVENTS THAT BIRTHED VENOM WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A DIFFERENT CREATURE ALTOGETHER. JUST BEYOND EDDIE'S VIEW LAY INNUMERABLE POSSIBILITIES. A MULTIVERSE OF POTENTIAL. A...

VENOMVERSE

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IBAN COELLO

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MATT YACKEY

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VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA

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WITH LOVE TO **DAVID, TODD, MIKE, STAN AND STEVE**

WHUUUUP!
...THE HELL WUZZAT?
FELT LIKE...
...I WAS BEING TURNED INSIDE OUT...
DID JACK HIT ME WITH SOMETHING?
LOOKS LIKE OUR BITS AND PIECES ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
NOW I JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT--

--WHERE WE ARE?

HNH. I'M GUESSING IT WASN'T JACK WHO DID THIS TO ME.

M-MISTER? CAN YOU HELP ME, MISTER?

HEY... UH...KID. WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

DON'T BE SCARED, ALL RIGHT? JUST COME HERE. TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.

WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE? MAYBE I CAN GET YOU--

SH-SMASH!

WHU--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU JUST SAW, EDDIE, BUT IT WASN'T A FRIENDLY.
ANOTHER SECOND OR TWO, AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY GOOD TO ME.
I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME--RIGHT NOW.
Y-YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA.
BUT NOT THE CAP I KNOW.
YOU JUST... KILLED A KID!
FALL IN, SOLDIER.
WHAT DID YOU SEE BACK THERE?
SOMEONE WHO MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU?
NO ONE MEANS ANYTHING TO ME.
THEN YOU'RE JUST THE KIND OF MAN WE NEED.

SHAKE A LEG.
WE NEED TO CLEAR SOME GROUND.
THE KID--
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE WE'RE SAFE.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY, YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TRUST YOUR EYES.
NOT IN THIS PLACE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE APPEARED CLOSER TO THE CHECKPOINT.
SOMETHING'S WRONG--THE MAGIC IS GETTING WEAK.
WE'RE EXPOSED OUT HERE...TOO EASY TO TRACK.
WE MAY HAVE TO JACKRABBIT A BIT, COVER OUR TRAIL.
MAGIC?
IT TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO, I KNOW.
IT WAS MAGIC THAT BROUGHT ME HERE, TOO.
MAGIC BROUGHT US ALL HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALL"?
YOU WANNA TELL ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
YOU'RE PART OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER THAN YOU EVER REALIZED...
...MUCH BIGGER THAN ANY OF US EVER REALIZED.

WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE.

HEY -- I KNOW THIS GUY.

MY SYMBIOTE RECOGNIZES HIM.

IS THAT EDDIE BROCK?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME WITH THIS!

HE'S NOT MY VENOM.

NEW FISH ON THE LINE.

SHADDUP. CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?

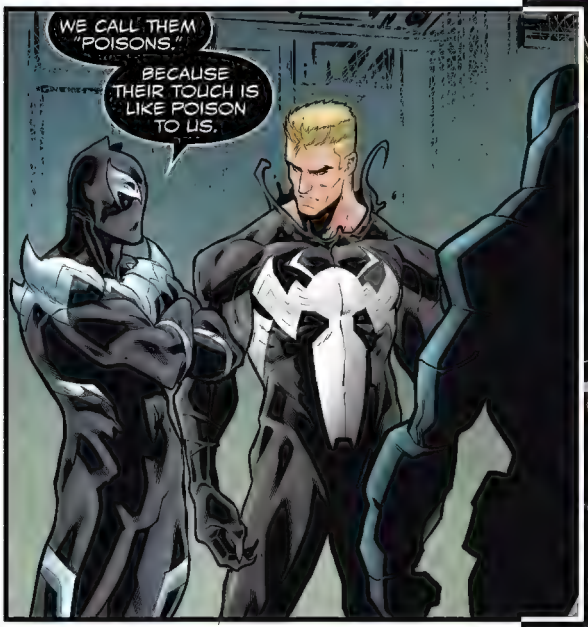
SO, THESE ARE ALL VENOMS FROM-- WHERE?
OTHER WORLDS...OTHER REALITIES?
YOU BROUGHT THEM ALL HERE--TOGETHER--AND YOU THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA?
IT WASN'T MY IDEA.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T MY FIGHT... OR YOURS, FOR THAT MATTER.
SEEMS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE CALLING THE SHOTS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS OUR TACTICIAN, YES...
...BUT IT WAS MY DECISION TO BRING YOU ALL TOGETHER.
I KNOW THIS IS CONFUSING, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND...
WE CONSCRIPTED YOU...
...INTO A BATTLE FOR THE VERY SURVIVAL OF OUR SPECIES.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT OUR SPECIES?
WE HAVE ALL FORMED A BOND WITH OUR SYMBIOTES.
VENOM IS NOT EDDIE BROCK. IT IS NOT THE SYMBIOTE.
WE ALL CARE ABOUT THEM, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM.
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE, VENOM. OUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE BEINGS THAT MAKE US WHOLE.

LAST CHANCE AGAINST WHO?
THAT KID CAPTAIN AMERICA SMASHED OUT THERE?
THAT WAS NO CHILD. WHAT YOU SAW WAS A MONSTER.

THEY'RE WEAK IN THEIR BASE FORM.
THEY'VE DEVELOPED SOME SORT OF PSYCHIC DEFENSE MECHANISM.
THROWS ATTACKERS OFF... ALLOWS 'EM TO GET IN CLOSE.

I'M NOT SSSO CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR BASSSE FORM.
IT'S WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THEY CONSSSUME A SYMBIOTE AND HOSSST THAT WORRIESSS ME.

"CONSUME"?


WE CALL THEM "POISONS."
BECAUSE THEIR TOUCH IS LIKE POISON TO US.

SEEMS LIKE YOU JERKS HAVE A PRETTY SIMPLE PLAN.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.
WHAT DO YOU NEED US FOR?

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE NOTION OF BRINGING EDDIE BROCK INTO THE FOLD?
I KNOW THIS GUY.
THIS GUY'S A PSYCHO.
HE'S NOT GOING TO HELP US.
MAYBE YOU KNOW AN EDDIE BROCK, PAL.
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, STRIKE ME AS THE SAME KIND OF @#$% AS ANY OTHER SPIDER-MAN.
I GUESS YOU DECIDED TO KEEP YOUR SYMBIOTE ON WHATEVER WORLD YOU'RE FROM.
YOU THINK THAT GIVES YOU THE STONES TO GET IN MY FACE?
TAKE A STEP BACK OR I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW WRONG YOU ARE.
BOTH OF YOU STAND DOWN.
THERE AREN'T SO MANY OF US LEFT THAT YOU TWO CAN KILL EACH OTHER.
BROCK BRINGS OUT THE WORST IN HIS SYMBIOTE, NO MATTER WHAT WORLD HE COMES FROM.
HE CORRUPTS IT.
DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN'T BE USEFUL.
SUICIDE RUN OR SOMETHING.

FORGET IT.
I'M DONE.
WHATEVER MOJO YOU WORKED TO BRING ME HERE, PLAY THE RECORD IN REVERSE AND SEND ME BACK HOME.
YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND... THESE SYMBIOTES MAKE US TARGETS.
THE POISONS ARE TRACKING US.
IF THEY DON'T GET YOU NOW, THEY WILL SOONER OR LATER.
AND IF THEY COME FOR YOU--WHILE YOU'RE ALONE--YOU'RE FINISHED.
YOUR SYMBIOTE GETS TURNED INTO A WEAPON...SOMETHING STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL THAN IT WAS BEFORE...
...BUT IT CEASES TO EXIST AS ITS OWN ENTITY...
...AND SO DO YOU.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE MARKS WAITING TO GET KILLED OFF.
THE POISONS CAN DIE. WE CAN KILL THEM.
SNIKT
AW, NO. MY SPIDER-SENSE!
YOU WERE FOLLOWED!
YOU LED THEM RIGHT--

SMASH!

GET STRANGE OUT OF HERE!

ON IT!

I'LL COVER--

PUNY VENOM!

KRRRNKGK!

I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TOUCH THEM!

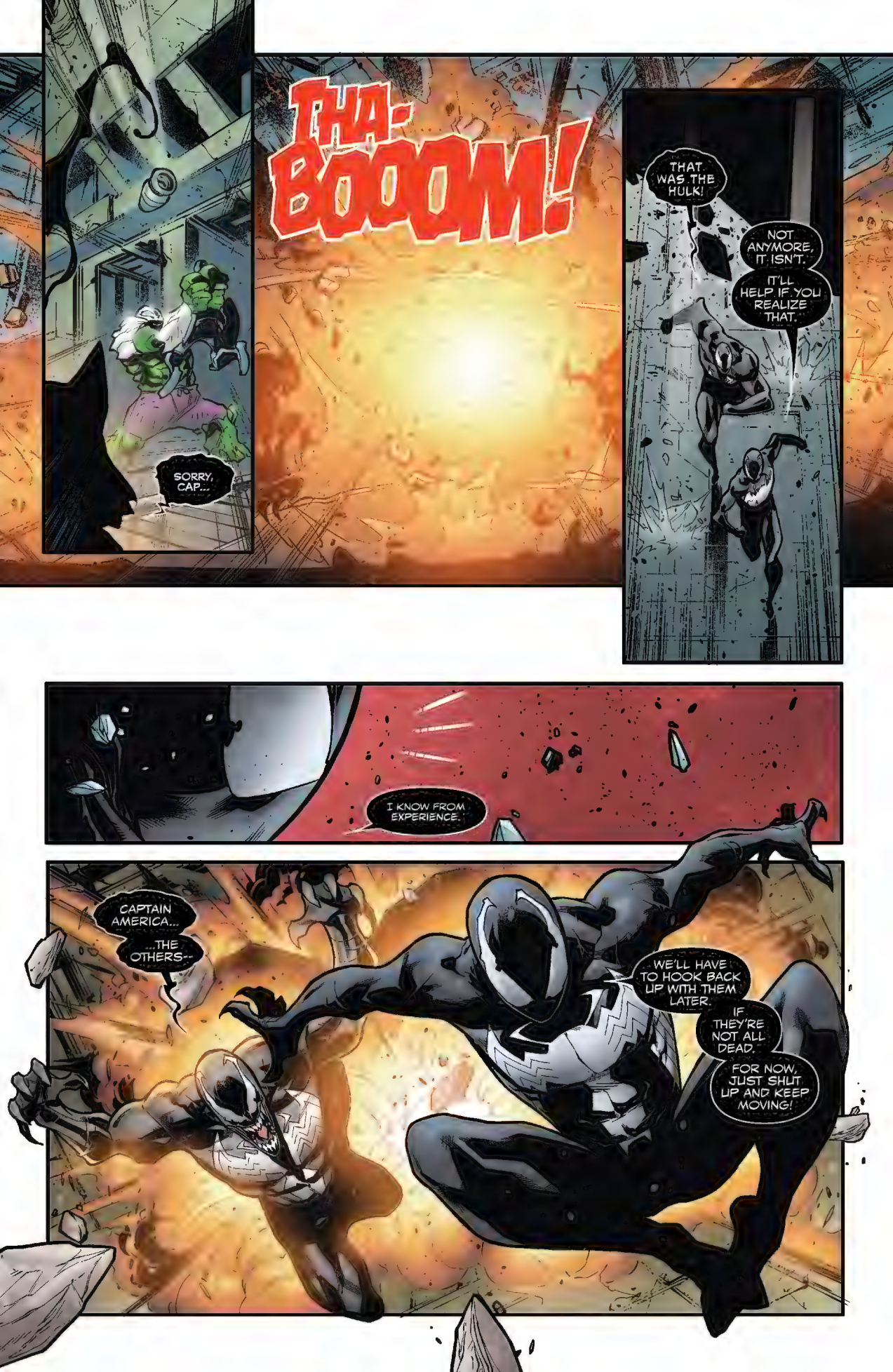
HE'S ALREADY MERGED WITH HULK AND HIS SYMBIOTE.

HE CAN'T CONSUME ANYONE ELSE...

...BUT HE CAN STILL SMASH US!

KRA-SMASH!!

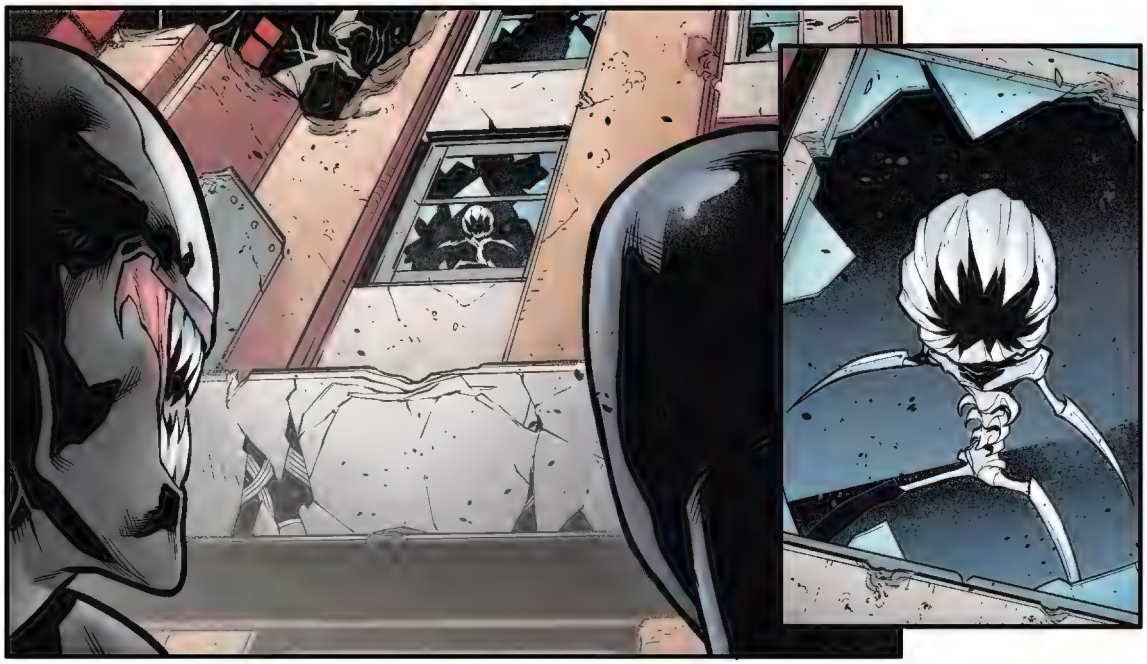
NNNUUH--
GET MOVING!
ON YOUR--
ARRGGH!
SCATTER! ALL OF YOU-- RETREAT!
THERE WILL BE OTHERS!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
SEAL THE TUNNEL, ROCKET!
AWWW.
I JUST GOT THIS BEAUTY FINISHED!

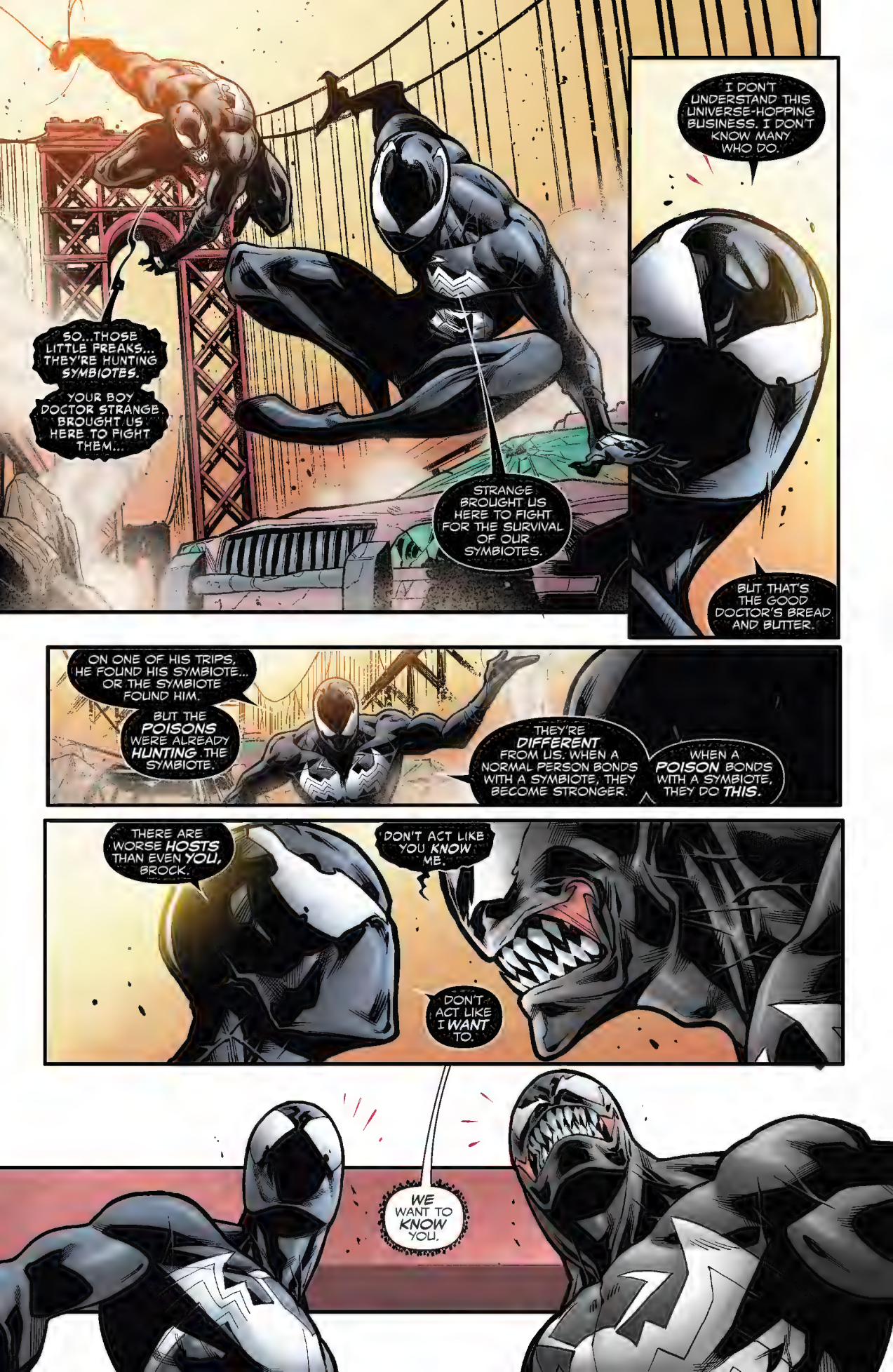

SORRY, CAP...
THA-BOOOM!
THAT WAS THE HULK!
NOT ANYMORE, IT ISN'T.
IT'LL HELP IF YOU REALIZE THAT.
I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE.
CAPTAIN AMERICA...
...THE OTHERS--
WE'LL HAVE TO HOOK BACK UP WITH THEM LATER.
IF THEY'RE NOT ALL DEAD.
FOR NOW, JUST SHUT UP AND KEEP MOVING!

YOU KNOW, I'LL BE BETTER IN A FIGHT IF I UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M UP AGAINST.

HOW MUCH MORE EXPLANATION DO YOU NEED?
YOU'RE BEING HUNTED.
MAYBE YOU'RE BEING HUNTED, BUT NOT ME!
I'M THE HUNTER!

NOT ANYMORE.



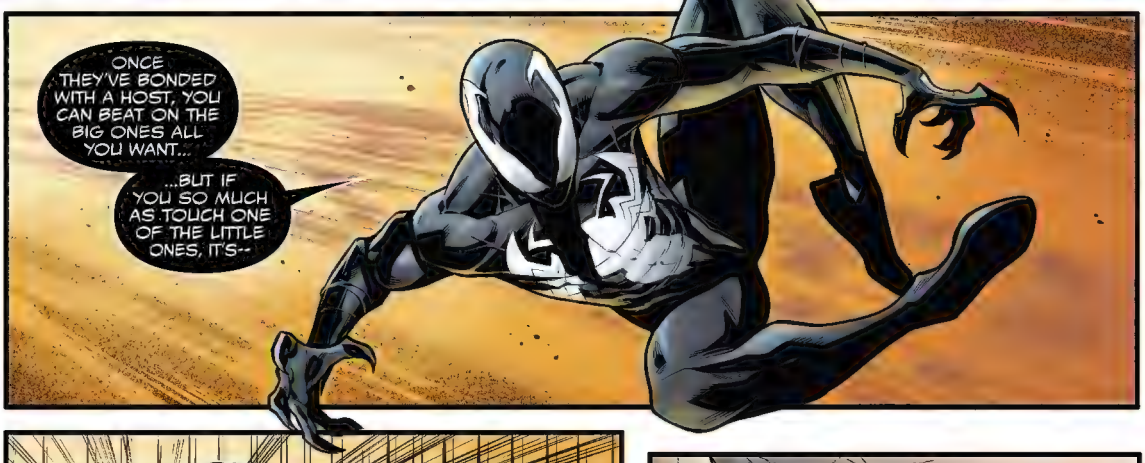

SO...THOSE LITTLE FREAKS... THEY'RE HUNTING SYMBIOTES.
YOUR BOY DOCTOR STRANGE BROUGHT US HERE TO FIGHT THEM...
STRANGE BROUGHT US HERE TO FIGHT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR SYMBIOTES.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS UNIVERSE-HOPPING BUSINESS. I DON'T KNOW MANY WHO DO.
BUT THAT'S THE GOOD DOCTOR'S BREAD AND BUTTER.
ON ONE OF HIS TRIPS, HE FOUND HIS SYMBIOTE... OR THE SYMBIOTE FOUND HIM.
BUT THE POISONS WERE ALREADY HUNTING THE SYMBIOTE.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM US. WHEN A NORMAL PERSON BONDS WITH A SYMBIOTE, THEY BECOME STRONGER.
WHEN A POISON BONDS WITH A SYMBIOTE, THEY DO THIS.
THERE ARE WORSE HOSTS THAN EVEN YOU, BROCK.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW ME.
DON'T ACT LIKE I WANT TO.
WE WANT TO KNOW YOU.

VERY WELL, IN FACT.
YOUR MEMORIES... YOUR HOPES... YOUR DREAMS.
YOU WILL LIVE ON IN US.
WE GOT THIS, RIGHT?
I MEAN... THAT SORTA LOOKS LIKE DR. OCTOPUS!
YOU USED TO TROUNCE HIM ON THE REGULAR.
LIKE I SAID...
...IT HELPS IF YOU STOP THINKING OF THEM AS PEOPLE YOU KNOW.
THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF YOU WOULD JUST SURRENDER.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. GIVE YOURSELVES UP.
WHILE YOUR HUMAN HOSTS WILL DIE, YOUR SYMBIOTES WILL THRIVE IN A NEWER, STRONGER FORM.
HRRRAAAGH!
SLAM!
NNNNNN--
COME ON...HEAL ME...
...HEAL US...

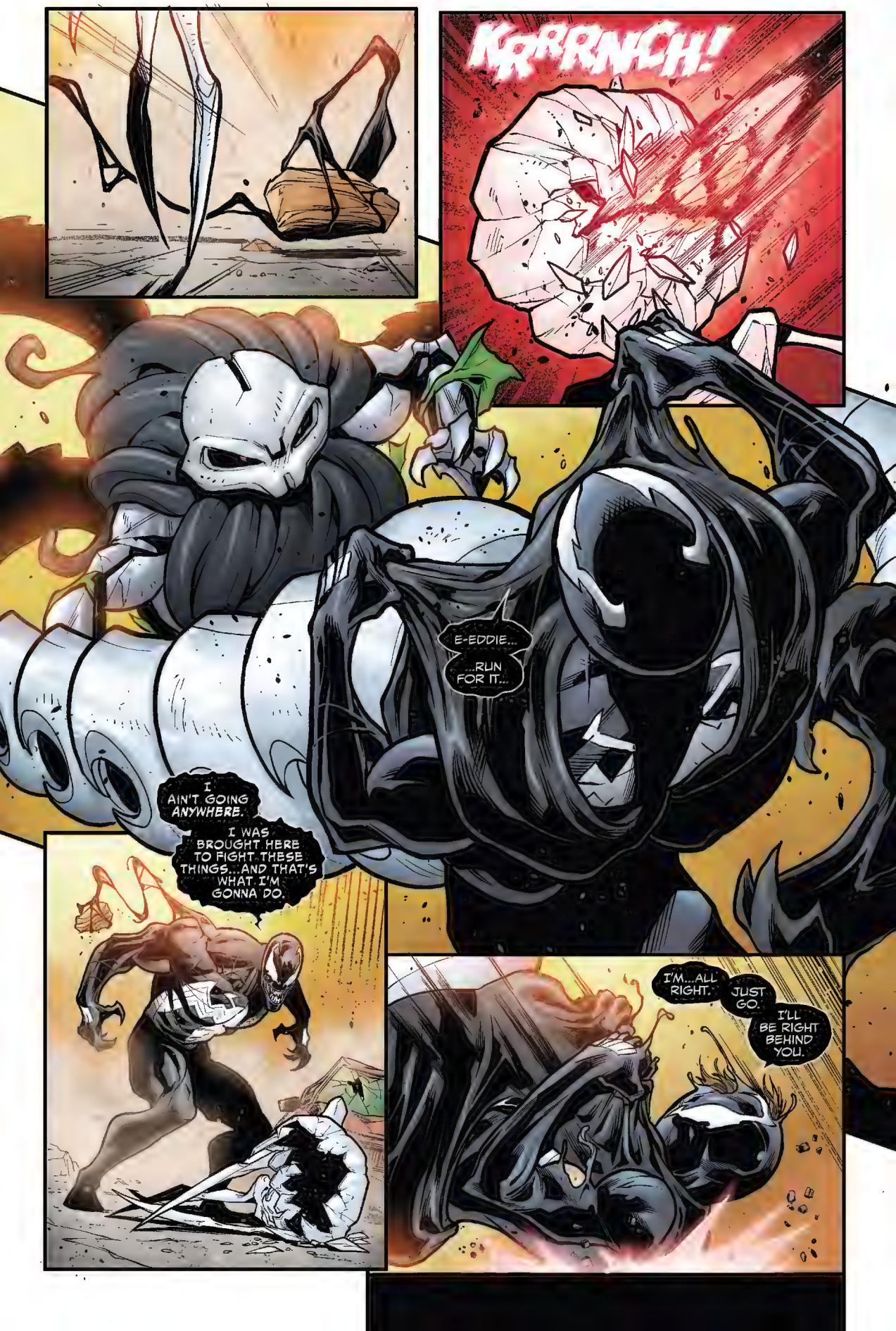
RAAAAGH!

DON'T TOUCH THAT THING!


ONCE THEY'VE BONDED WITH A HOST, YOU CAN BEAT ON THE BIG ONES ALL YOU WANT...
...BUT IF YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH ONE OF THE LITTLE ONES, IT'S--

LURK--

BACK OFF, YOU LITTLE BASTARD!


KRRRNCH!
E-EDDIE...
...RUN FOR IT...
I AIN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
I WAS BROUGHT HERE TO FIGHT THESE THINGS...AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO.
I'M...ALL RIGHT.
JUST GO.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

RRRRAAAAGGGH!
HNNN--
CHWOMP!
PETER?

HRRAAA--
OH, NO, PETER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
KRRRNK!
COME ALONG, DEAR.
UNCLE BEN IS WAITING FOR YOU BACK HOME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY CAN DIE AFTER--
--ALL.
SEE, SPIDER-MAN? I TOLD YOU WE COULD TAKE--

SPIDER-MAN?
HE'S GONE NOW.
BUT I'M GONNA DO WHAT HE NEVER HAD THE GUTS TO EVEN TRY.
I'M GONNA KILL VENOM!
TO BE CONTINUED...

WELL VERSED

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SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN, DOES WHATEVER A POISON CAN! IS HE BAD? LISTEN, BUD, HE'S GOT A CRAVING FOR VENOM'S BLOOD! LOOK OUT, THERE GOES THE [POISONED] SPIDER-MAN!

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome, at last, to VENOMVERSE!

Nearly six months in the making, this series is one that's been crafted by us here at the House of Ideas to bring you more bang-for-your-buck than any other story in the history of the wicked web-slinger!

And who are the masterminds behind this terrifying tale? I'm glad you asked, True Believer!

Considering the gravity and scale of this story, we wanted someone well-versed in Venom and his exploits, and who better than Venom veteran and Marvel superstar Cullen Bunn?!

But a comic is nothing without its illustrator, and we found one of the best for this story – Iban Coello! Eagle-eyed Marvelites will note that this isn't the first collaboration between Cullen and Iban. They're the very team who brought you DEADPOOL AND THE MERCS FOR MONEY, and we were thrilled to bring them back together for this series. I think you'll agree, Cullen and Iban have done some killer (HAH!) work in this issue, and trust me when I say THINGS ONLY GET BETTER!

I can't mention the art for this series without giving a shout-out to Matt Yackey, colorist extraordinaire. Spider-Philes will recognize Matt's name from the canceled-before-its-time and your favorite comic you haven't read, WEB-WARRIORS! Matt's style is perfect for the kind of gritty, super heroic vibe we wanted for this book, and I couldn't be happier to count him among the VENOM ranks.

Cullen, Iban and Matt's efforts would all be for naught without the terrifically talented Joe Caramagna on board lettering this puppy. Joe is and has always been tremendously patient with notes from yours truly, and I owe him at least a dozen donuts for his work on this series.

Not a lot of space in this column, Web-Heads, but keep your eyes peeled for a special double-sized column in VENOMVERSE 2! In the meantime, here's a particularly special letter we received recently. Take a look.

Hello VENOM Team,

I've always been a huge fan of Venom, in fact he is my favorite Marvel character ever since he was first introduced to me back in the '90s as a kid. Eddie Brock returning to the role of Venom has brought tears to my heart because Venom has finally come home where he belongs.

Being prior military, I came back from service with PTSD and extreme depression, finding out that Venom went back to Eddie almost instantaneously made me feel amazing and whenever I think about Venom being Eddie again, it always takes me out of a slump and fills me with smiles. I want to say thank you for brightening up my year and I hope that they stay together from now on. Fingers crossed!

Respectfully,
Justin M.

Thanks for your letter and for your service, Justin. It always means a lot to us here at Marvel when we hear that our comics have made a difference in the lives of our readers. I really hope you've been enjoying Eddie's return to the pages of VENOM so far – trust me when I say things are only going to get better!

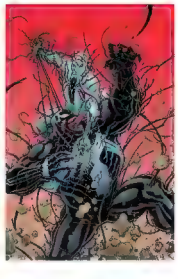
That's all the room we've got for this one, folks, but don't forget to send your thoughts on EDGE OF VENOMVERSE and this issue to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM.

ITEM: ***Before we close this one out, I wanted to take a moment to say a kind word about "Fabulous" Flo Steinberg. If you're plugged into the internet, you know that Flo passed away a few weeks ago, and our funny books suddenly felt a bit less funny. Flo was a pioneer in the comics industry, and was part of the DNA of Marvel Comics for as long as they've been in existence. Longtime Spider-Readers will know that I was an intern here at Marvel for a few years, and Flo was one of the people I met my first day on the job. She was quick-witted, kind, and knew the ins and outs of the MU better than just about anyone. And, boy, did she love the books as much as you or I – probably more. So, if you're a Spider-Fan, be sure to send us letters when you catch typos. Without Flo, we'll need a helping hand.***

Over and out!
Devin

DL

NEXT



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WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALLCRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

DURING A BATTLE WITH A SUPER VILLAIN, VENOM WAS TELEPORTED TO A DISTANT WORLD WHERE HE FOUND HIMSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH NONE OTHER THAN A VERSION OF ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** *WHO HAD BONDED WITH A VENOM SYMBIOTE!*

EDDIE LEARNED THAT HE'D BEEN DRAFTED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST A MYSTERIOUS SPECIES CALLED ***POISONS*** *THAT HUNTS SYMBIOTIC SUPER HEROES AND STEALS THEIR POWERS WITH THE AID OF DOCTOR STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS FORMED A SMALL RESISTANCE.*

AFTER A BRUTAL POISON ATTACK, CAP HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF TO SAVE HIS ALLIES. EDDIE AND A VENOMOUS SPIDER-MAN WERE ABLE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, BUT SPIDER-MAN FELL PREY TO THE POISONS AND VENOM FOUND HIMSELF AGAINST A NEW AND ***DEADLY*** *VERSION OF HIS OLDEST FOE...*

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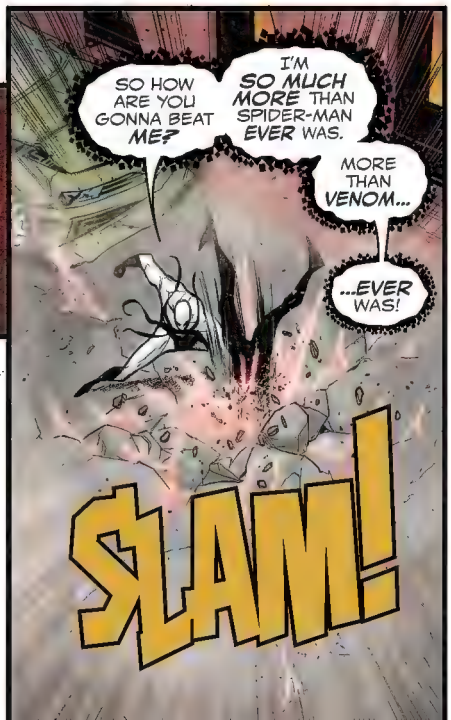
I BET THIS FEELS LIKE OLD TIMES TO YOU, HUH, EDDIE?
BET IT GETS YA TWISTED UP, RIGHT IN YOUR NOSTALGIC BITS.
SPIDER-MAN VERSUS VENOM--
--JUST LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!
BUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS ARE LONG GONE!
AND I'M NOT SPIDER-MAN!

COULD'VE POOLED ME.
HE NEVER SHUTS UP, EITHER.
HNH.
WHAT?
YOU NEED YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS FOR BACKUP?
AFRAID TO TANGLE WITH ME BY YOURSELF?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING?
BUDDY, YOU COULDN'T TAKE DOWN SPIDER-MAN ON YOUR BEST DAY!
YOU NEVER MANAGED TO BEAT HIM!

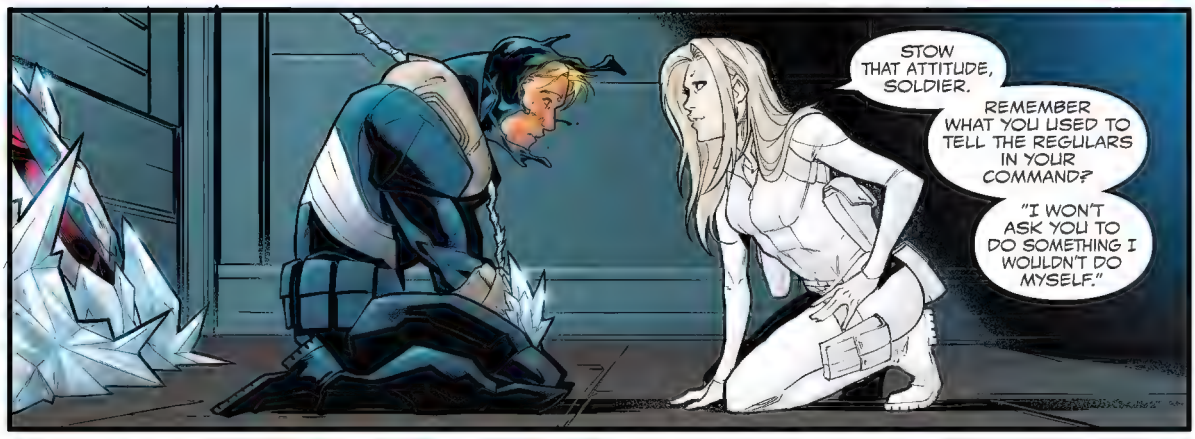

SO HOW ARE YOU GONNA BEAT ME?
I'M SO MUCH MORE THAN SPIDER-MAN EVER WAS.
MORE THAN VENOM...
...EVER WAS!
SLAM!

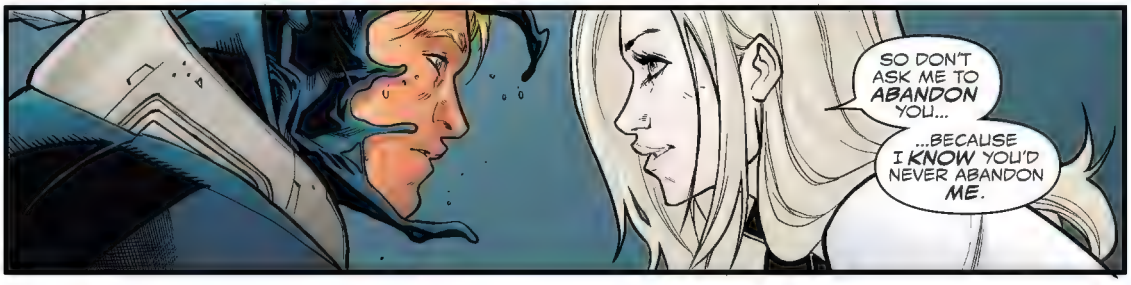
COME ON, EDUARDO!
WHERE'S THE TOUGH GUY TALK?
PUFF OUT YOUR CHEST AND SHOW ME WHAT A BRUISER YOU ARE!
KRNCH! SMACK! KRAK!
YOUR TENDRILS MIGHT'VE WORKED BEFORE, BUT MY SKIN IS A LITTLE THICKER NOW!
SPIDER-MAN ALWAYS WANTED TO KILL YOU. DID YOU KNOW THAT, EDDIE?
HNN... HNN...
HE WANTED YOU DEAD, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS.
NOW HE FINALLY GETS THE CHANCE--
GRK!
--THANKS TO ME!
WHO'S HUNGRY?

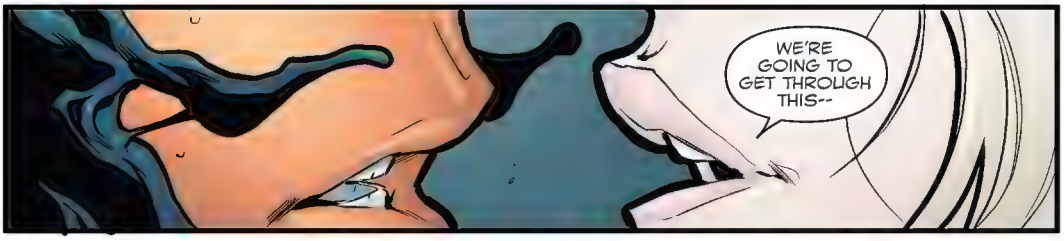
OH, LOOK! PARTY CRASHERS!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA-BRAK-BR-BRAKKA!
PARDON ME, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN A SYMBIOTE-CLAD MEATHEAD WITH A PENCHANT FOR GETTING CHOKED OUT BY BODY-SNATCHING JERKS, HAVE YOU?
HE'S DONE RUN AWAY FROM THE FARM AND WE'VE BEEN MISSING HIM SOMETHING FIERCE.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! WHO NEEDS FRIENDS TO FIGHT THEIR BATTLES FOR THEM NOW, EDDIE?
WELL, BRING 'EM ON!
ONE AT A TIME OR ALL AT ONCE, MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.
SOONER OR LATER...

"...YOU'VE ALL GOTTA FEED THE BEAST."
ON YOUR... FEET, S-SOLDIER.
THIS ISN'T HOW YOU'RE GOING OUT.
YOU'RE NOT DYING IN--
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
YEEEAAAARRGGH!
DON'T. DON'T TRY TO STAND, STEVE.
YOU KNOW SONIC EMITTERS WHEN YOU SEE THEM, DON'T YOU?
ONE OF YOUR FEW WEAKNESSES... BUT IT'S ONE YOU CAN SHED.

SH-SHARON?
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
YOU CAME FOR ME?
THAT'S RIGHT, STEVE.
I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU THIS WAY.
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
SHARON-- YOU CAN'T BE HERE.
IF THEY FIND YOU...
I WON'T LET YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR ME.


STOW THAT ATTITUDE, SOLDIER.
REMEMBER WHAT YOU USED TO TELL THE REGULARS IN YOUR COMMAND?
"I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING I WOULDN'T DO MYSELF."


SO DON'T ASK ME TO ABANDON YOU...
...BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'D NEVER ABANDON ME.


WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS--

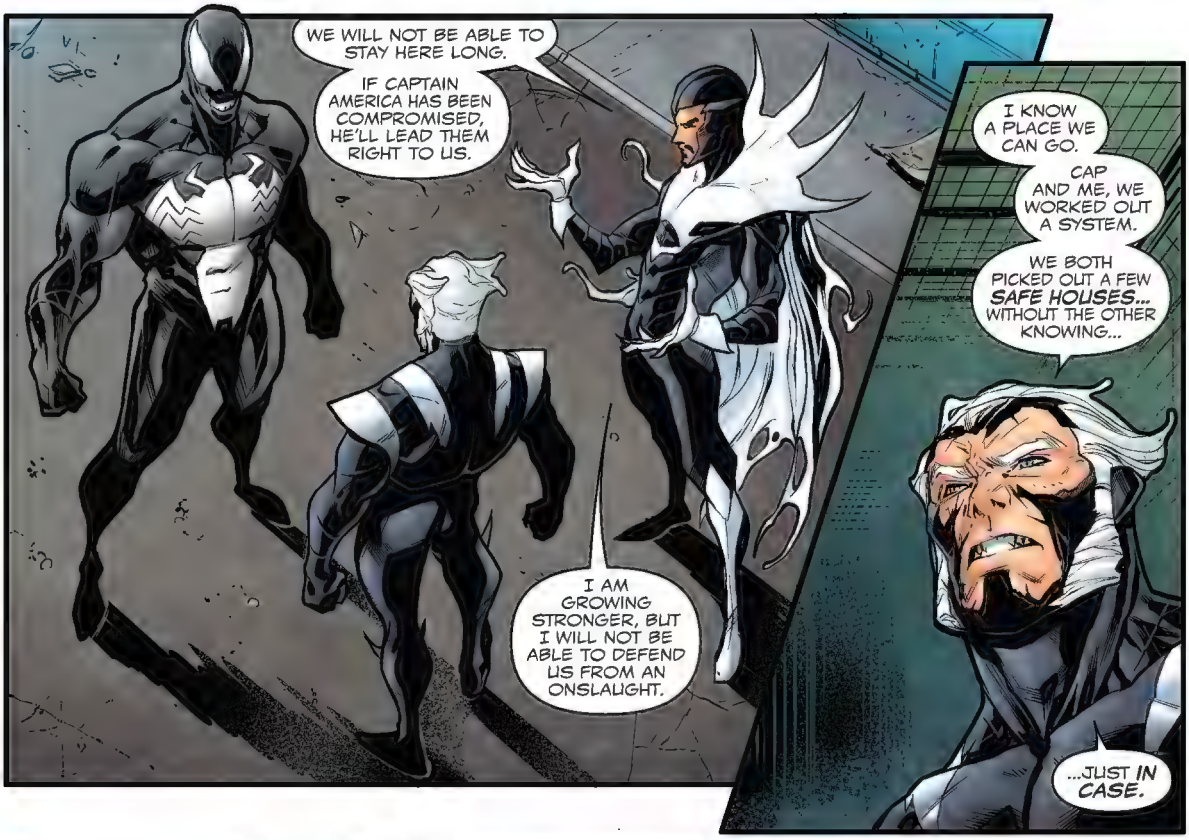
"--TOGETHER."
WHAT A WASTE!
SO MUCH POTENTIAL... SQUANDERED ON SUB-PRIME HOSTS!
TIME TO TRADE UP, VENOMS!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT IF YOU JUST GIVE UP, I'LL STOP SHOOTING YOU.
BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I'M AN ALTRUIST, AFTER ALL. I NEED TO FIND A HAPPY HOME FOR ALL THESE BULLETS.
KEEP TALKING WHILE I KILL YOUR FRIENDS.
AAAH--
G-GO AHEAD, TIGER.
KILL ME. GET IT OVER WITH.
M-MJ... I...
HEY, SPIDER! STOP WASTING YOUR TIME WITH MINNOWS!
THERE'S STILL SHARKS IN THESE WATERS!

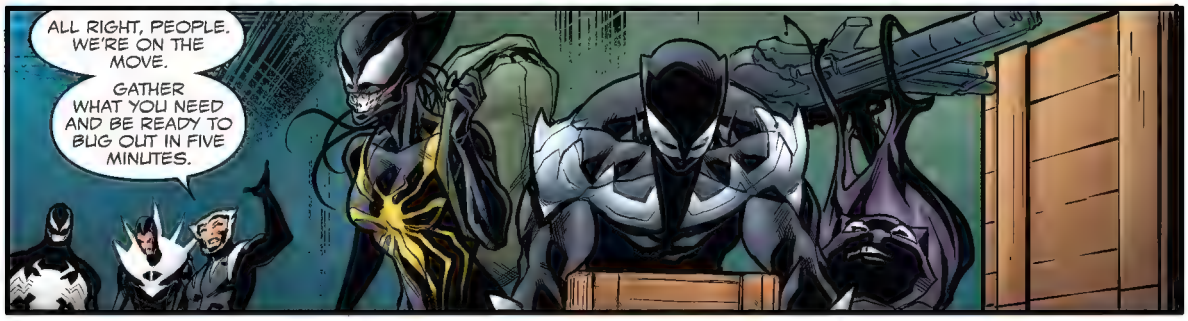
THAT'S IT!
DON'T LET UP FOR A SECOND!
YEAAAH--
YOU VENOMS ARE PITIFUL!
EVEN SPIDER-MAN KNEW HE WAS AN UNDESERVING HOST.
HE WAS NEVER WORTHY!
BUT NOW WE'RE HERE-- THE PERFECT HOSTS!
AND ALL WE WANT IS TO MAKE YOU ALL SO MUCH STRONGER!
NNNH!
HE... HESITATED.
YOU WEREN'T MY SPIDER, BUT YOU WERE CLOSE.
YOU REMINDED ME OF HIM.
I'M SORRY, TIGER.

SORRY WE COULDN'T SAVE YOU.
AWWW, THAT'S SWEET.
BUT I DON'T NEED SAVING!
THAT'S YOUR SHTICK!
A WORLD-FAMOUS ACTRESS, AND THE ROLE YOU PLAYED BEST WAS--
--THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS!
BRAKKA-BRAK-BRAK-BRAKKA!
Y'KNOW... WITHOUT ANY OF MY LITTLE PALS HERE TO CONVERT YOU, THIS FIGHT HAS LOST ITS APPEAL.
THWIP
SEE YA AROUND, EDDIE.
CATCH YA NEXT TIME!
YOU ALL RIGHT, BROCK?
I'M FINE, LOGAN.
FOR NOW.
THIS...IT WAS JUST A DUST-UP.

"ASK ME HOW I'M DOING ONCE THE REAL FIGHT'S OVER."
ONE KISS... AND WE CAN BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
N-NO!
YOU'RE NOT SHARON.
YOU'RE A LIE...A TRICK...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO STUBBORN, STEVE.
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE THIS EASIER ON YOU...
...TO MAKE IT AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE.
DO YOUR WORST.
NNNN--
REEEEEAAARGH!
"CAP'S DEAD."

IF HE'S NOT, HE SOON WILL BE...OR WISHING HE WAS.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE CAPTAIN AMERICA I KNOW. BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S DONE FOR SURE.
WE KNOW. WE WOULD HAVE SENSED IT IF HE HAD ESCAPED.
THEY TOOK HIM...AND THAT MEANS HE'S GONE, JUST LIKE PE--
LIKE SPIDER-MAN.
THE SAME THING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE REST OF US...
...AS SOON AS THEY TRACK US DOWN.
IT IS GOOD THAT YOU HAVE SURVIVED.
BUT... SPIDER-MAN... WHERE--
HE'S... NOT WITH US ANYMORE, PANTHER
AW... DAMN.
THAT'S THREE DOWN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF HOURS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA... SPIDER-MAN...
...AND AGENT VENOM, KILLED TRYING TO COVER THE REST OF US.
MANIA IS CORRECT. OUR NUMBERS ARE DWINDLING QUICKLY...


WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAY HERE LONG.
IF CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, HE'LL LEAD THEM RIGHT TO US.
I AM GROWING STRONGER, BUT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND US FROM AN ONSLAUGHT.
I KNOW A PLACE WE CAN GO.
CAP AND ME, WE WORKED OUT A SYSTEM.
WE BOTH PICKED OUT A FEW SAFE HOUSES... WITHOUT THE OTHER KNOWING...
...JUST IN CASE.


ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE. WE'RE ON THE MOVE.
GATHER WHAT YOU NEED AND BE READY TO BUG OUT IN FIVE MINUTES.

STRANGE, BEFORE WE WERE AMBUSHED...
...BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN...
...SPIDER-MAN WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENING.
FILL HIM IN, DOC.
HE'S IN THE THICK OF THINGS NOW.
HE DESERVES TO KNOW.

IN TRUTH, WE UNDERSTAND VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE POISONS.
THEY ARE NOT UNLIKE A VIRUS...
...ONE THAT SEEMS TO BE DEIGNED FOR OUR ERADICATION.

TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED, PEOPLE!
FORGET ABOUT FOOD AND MEDS! STICK WITH FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES!
IN THEIR NATURAL FORMS, THE POISONS ARE SMALL AND FRAGILE.
THROUGH SOME GENETIC TRICK, PERHAPS MERELY EVOLUTION ITSELF, THEY ARE THE PERFECT HOSTS FOR THE SYMBIOTES, OUR OTHERS.
WHEN TAKEN BY ONE, THE SYMBIOTES BECOME MUCH MORE POWERFUL.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HOSTS? WHAT ABOUT US?
OH, THEY FIND USE FOR THE HOST, AS WELL.
FOR THEM, THE BONDING PROCESS REQUIRES RAW...NUTRIENTS TO WORK.
THE HOST IS CONSUMED AS A FUEL WHEN THEY TAKE CONTROL OF THE SYMBIOTE.
WHAT THE WEIRDO SUPREME IS SAYING IS THAT WE'RE SCREWED.
EVERY TIME WE RUN INTO ONE OF THESE POISONS, OUR NUMBERS DROP AND THEIRS GROW.
IT SHOCKS ME THAT NOBODY'S REALIZED THAT WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
WE'RE NOT DEAD YET, WADE.
YEAH?
TELL THAT TO HULK. TO SPIDEY. TO CAP.
YOU WANT TO LEAD US TO THE SLAUGHTER, BE MY GUEST.
BUT FACE IT, OLD MAN VENOM...YOU CAN BARK ORDERS ALL YOU WANT...

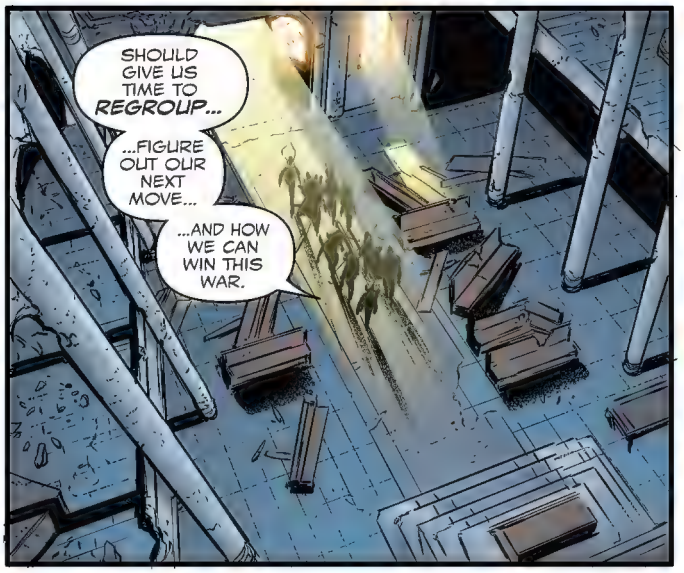
"...BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU CAPTAIN AMERICA!"
ANOTHER SYMBIOTE HAS BEEN CLAIMED.
ANOTHER WEAPON TAKEN.
ANOTHER WARRIOR BORN!
THE SPAWNING HAS YIELDED FRUIT ONCE MORE.
TELL ME, CAPTAIN--
--HOW DO YOU FEEL?
BETTER THAN EVER, SIR!

READY TO SERVE MY COUNTRY.
NO. NOT COUNTRY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
IT TAKES A WHILE TO FULLY ABSORB THE CONSCIOUSNESS.
GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO ADJUST.
THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR YOU.
FOR ALL OF US.
CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS ONE OF THEIR LEADERS.
I CAN TELL YOU EVERYTHING.
I CAN RUN DOWN THEIR FORCES...TARGET THEIR HIDING PLACES...
AND WHAT ABOUT THE SOURCE?
I CAN TELL YOU WHERE TO FIND HIM.
I CAN HELP YOU CAPTURE HIM.
AND THEN WE CAN BREAK HIM.
EXCELLENT.

WE WILL TAKE THEM ALL.
SO IT IS WRITTEN IN THE GOSPEL OF THE SPAWNING.
AND WHEN WE HAVE HUNTED THEM ALL...
...WHEN WE HAVE CONSUMED THEM TO THEIR LAST...
...WE WILL USE THE MAGICIAN TO BRING US MORE!
"THIS ISN'T HOW YOU WIN A WAR."

"HELL...THIS ISN'T EVEN SURVIVAL.
"THIS IS JUST HIDE-AND-SEEK."
AT SOME POINT, WE'VE GOTTA TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE POISONS.
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT. YOU'RE THE WOLVERINE--
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
I DON'T DISAGREE WITH YOU.
BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS FIGHT THAN SMOKING GUNS AND BLEEDING KNUCKLES.
THAT'S RIGHT!
FIRST, WE GOTTA FIND WHERE THE POISONS ARE HIDING.
THEN I'LL USE THIS BABY TO TEACH 'EM A THING OR TWO.
THEY TOOK ALL THE OTHER GUARDIANS.
I'M THE LAST ONE.
BUT I'M GONNA GET SOME PAYBACK.

HEY...I KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
OUR LADY OF SAINTS.
THIS IS WHERE MY OTHER AND I BECAME JOINED.
WHERE WE BECAME ONE.


SHOULD GIVE US TIME TO REGROUP...
...FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT MOVE...
...AND HOW WE CAN WIN THIS WAR.

I DON'T EVEN LIKE SUGGESTING THIS IN A CHURCH, BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE POISONS...
...WE NEED SOME SORT OF DOOMSDAY WEAPON.
WHAT D'YA THINK I'M WORKING ON OVER HERE, TOOTS?
IF YOU GUYS WOULD STOP FORCING ME TO USE THESE BOMBS TO SAVE YOUR SORRY CANS, WE'D HAVE ONE HELLUVA PAYLOAD!

DOOMSDAY, HUH?
I DUNNO... I MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT THAT.
BUT EVEN I DON'T LIKE HOW CRAZY IT IS.
SPEAKING OF CRAZY...

"...WHERE'S DEADPOOL?"
HELLLLLOOOOOOOOOO?
HELLLLOOOOOO?
IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?
ANY POISONS OUT THERE LOOKING FOR A TASTY SNACK?
ANYBODY BUYING WHAT I'M SELLING?
HOLLA AT YA BOY!
YOOOO-HOOOOO!
THERE YOU ARE!
DON'T BE SHY! STEP RIGHT UP!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.
IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM...
...SURRENDER PEACEFULLY TO 'EM...
...AND HOPE THE INITIATION ISN'T HALF AS PAINFUL AS YOU THINK!
TO BE CONTINUED...

WELL VERSED

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OH, NO! What's dear ol' Deadpool gone and gotten himself into this time? I don't know about you, True Believers, but I don't think he's going to survive this ordeal! Only way to know for sure is to come back next week and read VENOMVERSE 3!

While you're waiting, though, check out these letters we've gotten from fans across the Venomverse letting us know their thoughts about the wicked web-slinger!

Dear Venom Team,

What could we have possibly done to be blessed with this series? And whose idea were the talking dinosaurs?

First off, I'm a huge fan and longtime reader of SPIDER-MAN since I was a child. I was actually introduced to Venom from reading my dad's old Spider-Man comics from the '90s. Ever since, Venom has become my favorite anti-hero of Marvel!

But after GUARDIANS and SPACE KNIGHT, I wasn't sure where VENOM would go next. Even after arriving back on Earth and spending some time with Lee Price I continued to be skeptical of the new series. That is, until he was finally reunited again with the OG VENOM, Eddie Brock! I've been waiting for this reunion for way too long!

What I'm trying to say is, I couldn't be any happier with the way Venom is being portrayed in this comic! The idea that Venom is not only a savage killing machine but cares for innocents is extremely intriguing and reminds me a lot of the good old days.

Speaking of the good old days, I love the recent change back to the original numbering! My thanks go to everyone on the team that helps make this comic, for doing right by one of my favorite characters of all time! Let's make sure this series never gets canceled!

Anthony B.

Let's hope, Anthony! The surest way to keep the Venom flowing is to snag the issues of his series every month at your local comic ship – heck, pick up a copy for your friends! And your family! They're great for holidays, graduations and other special occasions, too!

Dear SymbiWrote,

As a lifelong Venom fan, I'm really glad that Eddie and the symbiote are finally back together. Even more so now that Venom is finally getting his own major comic event in VENOMVERSE — which I can't wait to read!

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE has been a fun ride, seeing different Marvel heroes being bonded with the symbiote and having a taste of its aggressive nature, which I find very interesting.

As it stands, Mania is one of my favorite characters ever and I hope we get to see her in VENOMVERSE as well in other upcoming Venom stories.

Carlos S.
Venomaniac from
Toronto, Canada

Hey, Carlos! And thanks for your letter! You're darn tootin' that we've got Mania in VENOMVERSE! Hope you dug seeing her in this very issue as much as we did. And keep your eyes peeled in forthcoming issues of VENOM. We've got BIG, CRAZY plans for Mania. I guarantee you won't see them coming!

That's all the space we've got for this one, folks! Be back in one week to see if Deadpool survived his run-in with the Poisons! Here's a peek at our next cover to give you a hint...

Stay sharp!
-Devin

MARVEL
#3
cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY
VENOMVERSE
MARVEL
INHUMANS
A MARVEL TELEVISION SERIES
ABC SEPT 29
delgado
delgado

WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

DURING A ROUTINE BATTLE WITH A SUPER VILLAIN, VENOM WAS TELEPORTED TO A DISTANT WORLD WHERE HE FOUND HIMSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH NONE OTHER THAN A VERSION OF **CAPTAIN AMERICA** WHO HAD BONDED WITH A VENOM SYMBIOTE!

EDDIE LEARNED THAT HE'D BEEN DRAFTED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST A MYSTERIOUS SPECIES CALLED **POISONS** THAT HUNTS SYMBIOTIC SUPER HEROES AND STEALS THEIR POWERS IN THE PROCESS. WITH THE AID OF DOCTOR STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS FORMED A SMALL RESISTANCE.

HOWEVER, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SPIDER-MAN WERE CAPTURED AND TURNED BY THE POISONS, AND WITH DEFEAT LOOKING INEVITABLE, DEADPOOL WILLINGLY SURRENDERED TO THE POISONS AND ALLOWED THEM TO CONSUME HIM!

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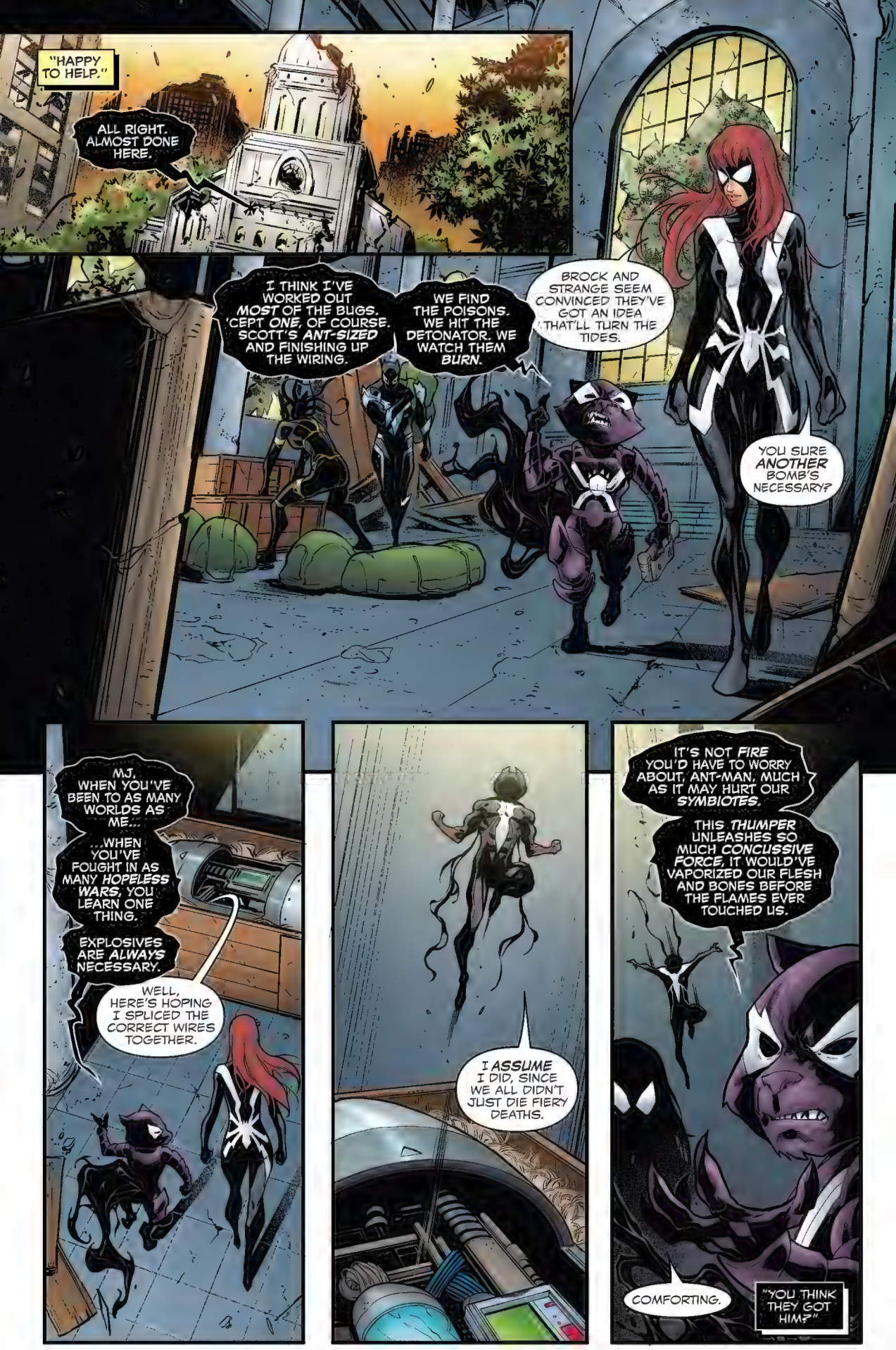
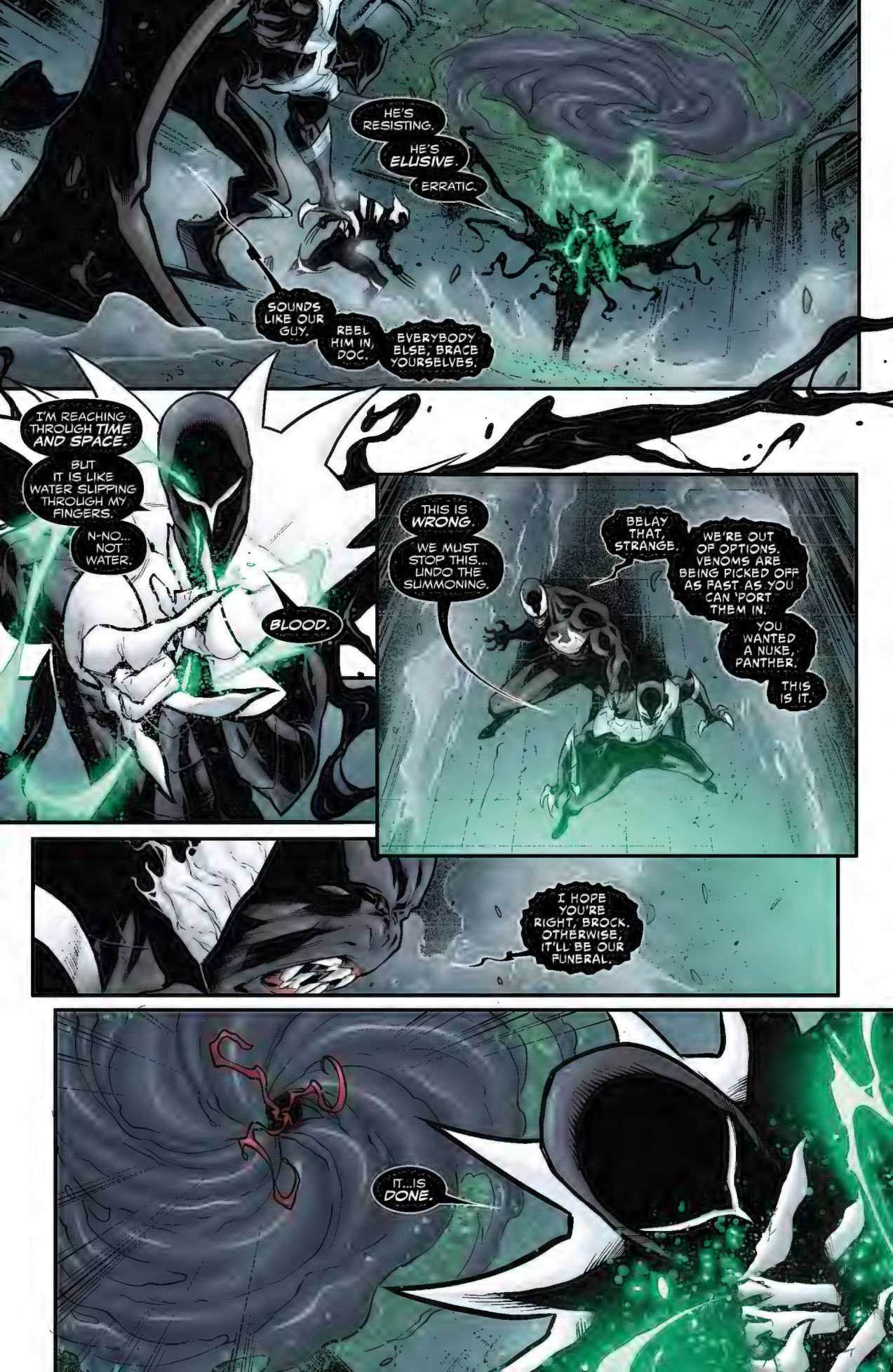
IT'S... NOT WHAT WE...
WHAT THEY...
...EXPECTED.
THE WEAPON...
...STRIPPED OF ITS WILL...
...THE HOST...
...ABSORBED TO FUEL THE CATABOLISM...
ALWAYS THE OUTCAST...
...BUT NOW...
...TO BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER...
...IT HURTS.

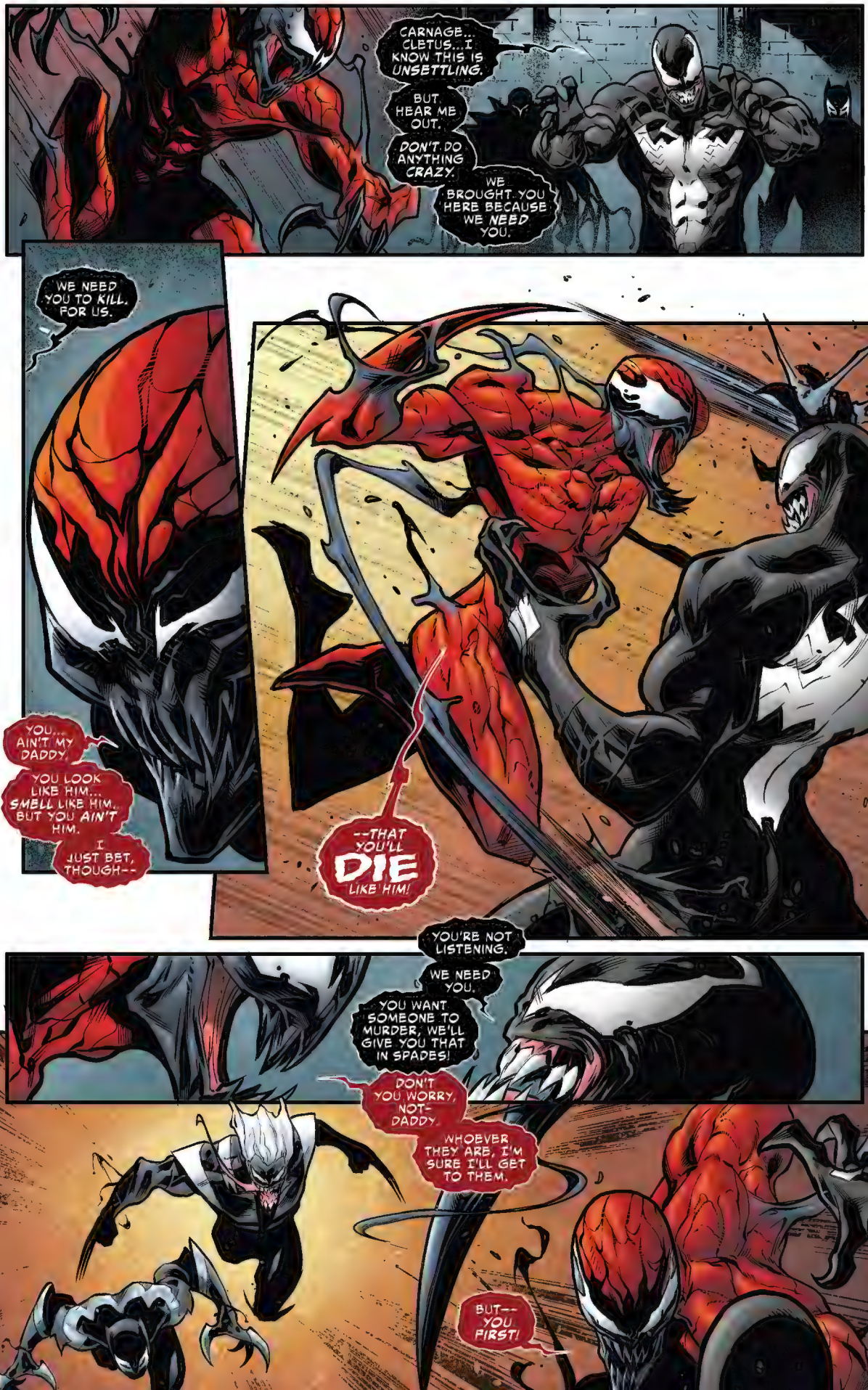
HURTS SO GOOD!
DEADPOOL--WELCOME TO THE HIVE.
YOU HAVE BEEN REBORN, AND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL HAS BEEN UNLOCKED.
WHO'S YER BOY?
ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO SERVE?
WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WE CAN STRIKE A DECISIVE BLOW AGAINST THE RESISTANCE.
CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THEY ARE HIDING?
YOU BET, CAP.


"HAPPY TO HELP."
ALL RIGHT. ALMOST DONE HERE.
I THINK I'VE WORKED OUT MOST OF THE BUGS. 'CEPT ONE, OF COURSE. SCOTT'S ANT-SIZED AND FINISHING UP THE WIRING.
WE FIND THE POISONS. WE HIT THE DETONATOR. WE WATCH THEM BURN.
BROCK AND STRANGE SEEM CONVINCED THEY'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL TURN THE TIDES.
YOU SURE ANOTHER BOMB'S NECESSARY?
MJ, WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TO AS MANY WORLDS AS ME...
...WHEN YOU'VE FOUGHT IN AS MANY HOPELESS WARS, YOU LEARN ONE THING.
EXPLOSIVES ARE ALWAYS NECESSARY.
WELL, HERE'S HOPING I SPLICED THE CORRECT WIRES TOGETHER.
I ASSUME I DID, SINCE WE ALL DIDN'T JUST DIE FIERY DEATHS.
IT'S NOT FIRE YOU'D HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, ANT-MAN. MUCH AS IT MAY HURT OUR SYMBIOTES.
THIS THUMPER UNLEASHES SO MUCH CONCUSSIVE FORCE, IT WOULD'VE VAPORIZED OUR FLESH AND BONES BEFORE THE FLAMES EVER TOUCHED US.
COMFORTING.
"YOU THINK THEY GOT HIM?"

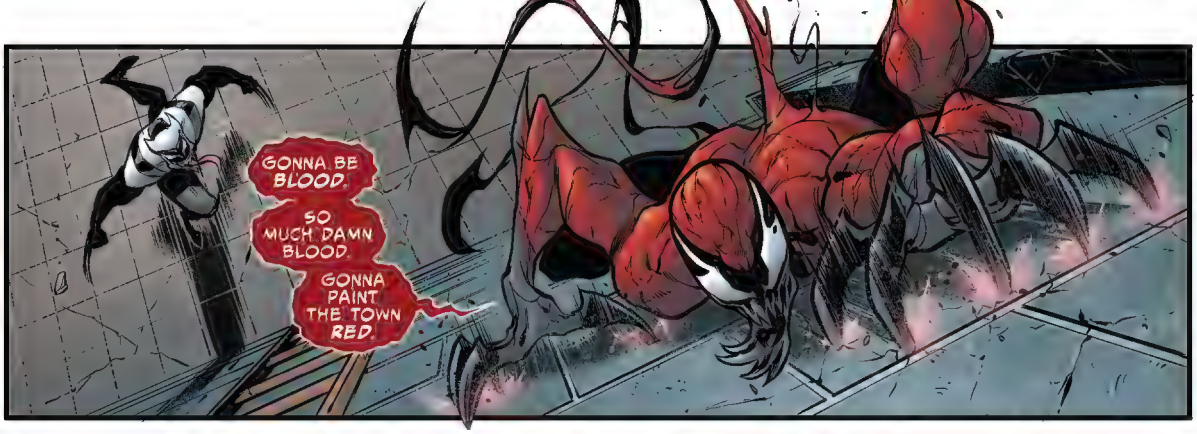
YOU THINK THE POISONS GOT DEADPOOL?
IT'S POSSSSSIBLE.
OR MAYBE HE JUST LEFT US TO DIE AND WANDERED OFF IN SEARCH OF FROZEN BURRITOS OR CHIMICHANGAS OR WHATEVER.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT.
DEADPOOL REEKSSS OF SSSIN, BUT NOT OF EVIL.
...
NAH.
THEY GOT HIM.
JUST LIKE THEY GOT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.
JUST LIKE THEY'RE GONNA GET US.
NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT.
STRANGE HAS A SSSECRET WEAPON--
DON'T GO THERE, ROBBIE.
THAT WAS BROCK'S IDEA.
HE'S NOT WHAT YOU'D CALL AN EXPERT STRATEGIST.
"THIS PLAN OF HIS SOUNDS EVEN RISKIER THAN FACING THE POISONS HEAD-ON."
I CAN SENSE HIM.
AND YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE IS VERY STRONG-WILLED.


HE'S RESISTING.
HE'S ELUSIVE.
ERRATIC.
SOUNDS LIKE OUR GUY.
REEL HIM IN, DOC.
EVERYBODY ELSE, BRACE YOURSELVES.
I'M REACHING THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.
BUT IT IS LIKE WATER SLIPPING THROUGH MY FINGERS.
N-NO... NOT WATER.
BLOOD.
THIS IS WRONG.
WE MUST STOP THIS... UNDO THE SUMMONING.
BELAY THAT, STRANGE.
WE'RE OUT OF OPTIONS. VENOMS ARE BEING PICKED OFF AS FAST AS YOU CAN 'PORT THEM IN.
YOU WANTED A NUKE, PANTHER.
THIS IS IT.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, BROCK. OTHERWISE, IT'LL BE OUR FUNERAL.
IT...IS DONE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
...OR WHERE YOU GOT THE GUMPTION TO PULL ME AWAY FROM MY REGULARLY SCHEDULED SATURDAY-NIGHT SLAYING...
...BUT YOU'RE GONNA REGRET IT!
YOU DONE CALLED UP SOMETHING YOU AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO PUT DOWN!
YOU DONE CALLED
CARNAGE


CARNAGE... CLETUS... I KNOW THIS IS UNSETTLING.
BUT, HEAR ME OUT.
DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY.
WE BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE WE NEED YOU.
WE NEED YOU TO KILL, FOR US.
YOU... AIN'T MY DADDY.
YOU LOOK LIKE HIM... SMELL LIKE HIM... BUT YOU AIN'T HIM.
I JUST BET, THOUGH--
--THAT YOU'LL DIE LIKE HIM!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.
WE NEED YOU.
YOU WANT SOMEONE TO MURDER, WE'LL GIVE YOU THAT IN SPADES!
DON'T YOU WORRY, NOT-DADDY.
WHOEVER THEY ARE, I'M SURE I'LL GET TO THEM.
BUT-- YOU FIRST!

WHAT IS THIS?
SO MANY VENOMS! IS IT CHRISTMAS MORNING?
JUST SAY THE WORD...AND I'LL CUT HIM DOWN.
WE MUST SUBDUE HIM.
WE MUST MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND.
CLETUS--YOU'RE MAKING IT REAL TOUGH TO PULL MY PUNCHES!
DON'T YOU DARE!
DON'T YOU DARE GO EASY, DADDY-O!
DON'T YOU CHEAT ME OUT OF THIS!
AGH--
YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE THIS BLOODBATH YOUR ALL?
I'LL COME BACK WHEN YOUR HEAD'S IN THE GAME!


GONNA BE BLOOD.
SO MUCH DAMN BLOOD.
GONNA PAINT THE TOWN RED.

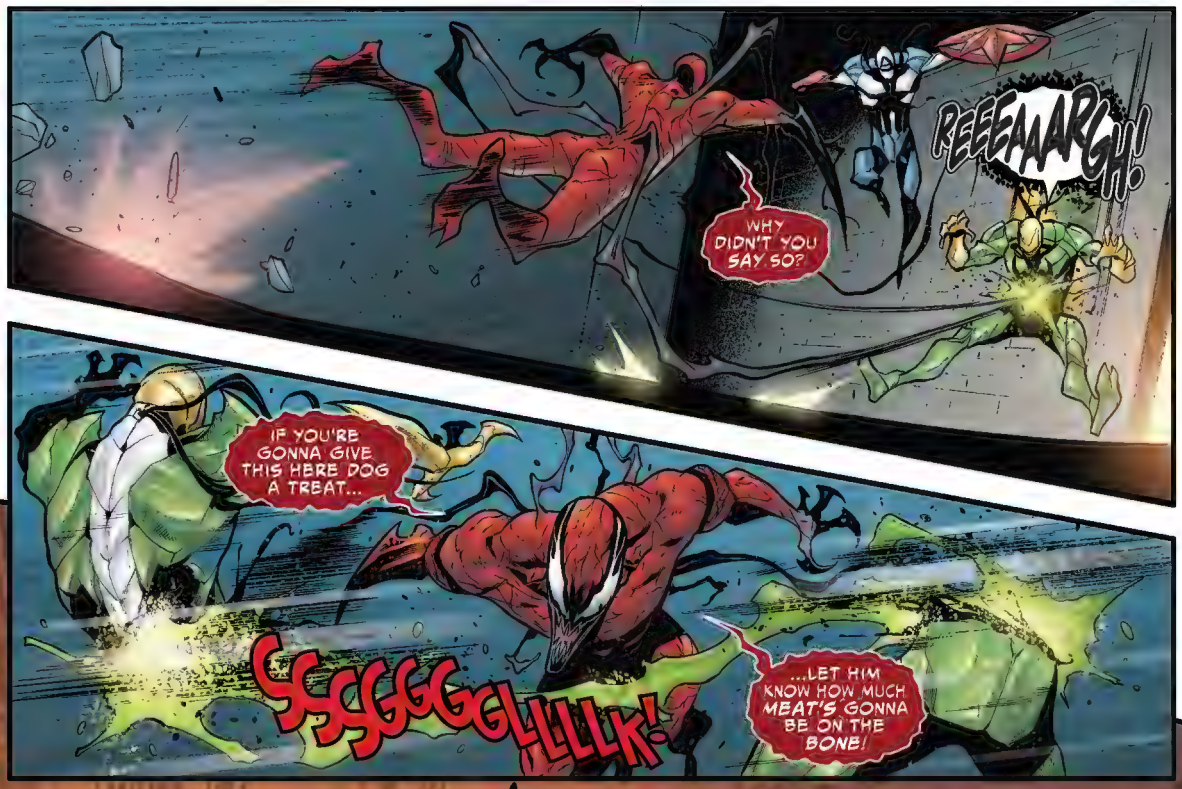
SCLIGKT!
OH, HELL--
OOOOOH!
A GIRLY-TYPE WITH A DADDY SYMBIOTE OF HER OWN!

AND WITH CLAWS, TOO!
AIN'T TODAY JUST FULL OF WONDERFUL SURPRISES?
RAAGH!
SLISH!
CHINK!
SLGK!
CHG-
THUNK!

GUYS!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE! WE--
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, SWEET THING!

OOOOO-WEEE!
GONNA TRY'N PILE ON?
BRING IT!
I BET ONE OF YOU HAS THE KILLER INSTINCT--

WHA-
THOOM!
HIT THEM HARD AND FAST!
THEY WEREN'T READY FOR US!
DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RECOVER!
C-CAP--
AW, DREK!
I FIGURED THEY GOT HIM.
BUT I'D HOPED I WASN'T GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE IT.
HOLD ON NOW.
IS THIS WHO YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO KILL?
A BUNCHA MESSED-UP SUPER HEROES?


REEEAAARGH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
IF YOU'RE GONNA GIVE THIS HERE DOG A TREAT...
SSSGGGGLLLLLK!
...LET HIM KNOW HOW MUCH MEAT'S GONNA BE ON THE BONE!

DID YOU SEE THAT?
THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO TOUCH HIM!

THEY'VE CALLED IN A RINGER!
HIS CLAWS-- CUT RIGHT THROUGH US!
THEY'RE RATTLED!
DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RECOVER!

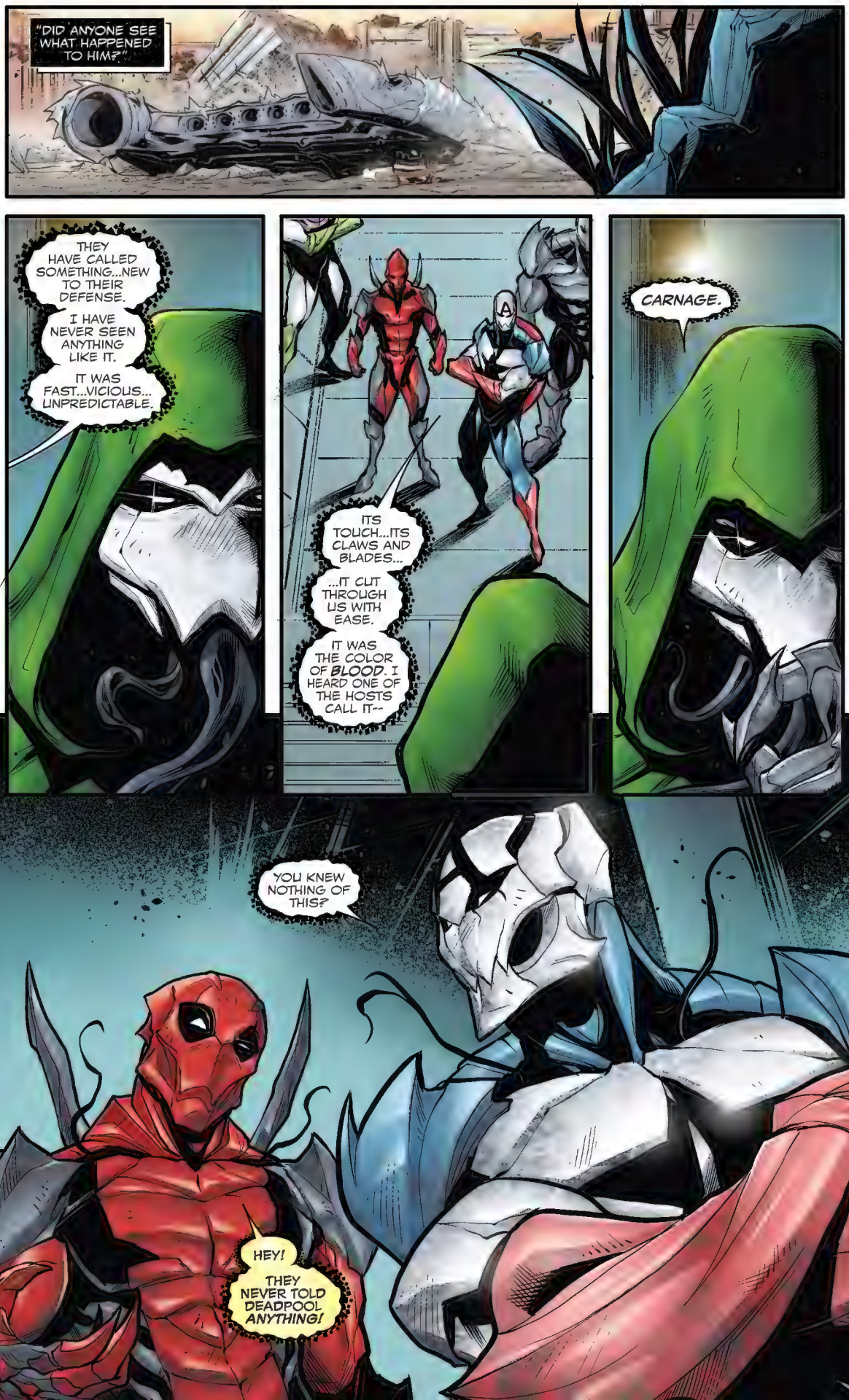
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, SON.
BUT OUR FIGHT'S NOT WITH YOU.
YOU THINK THAT MATTERS TO ME?

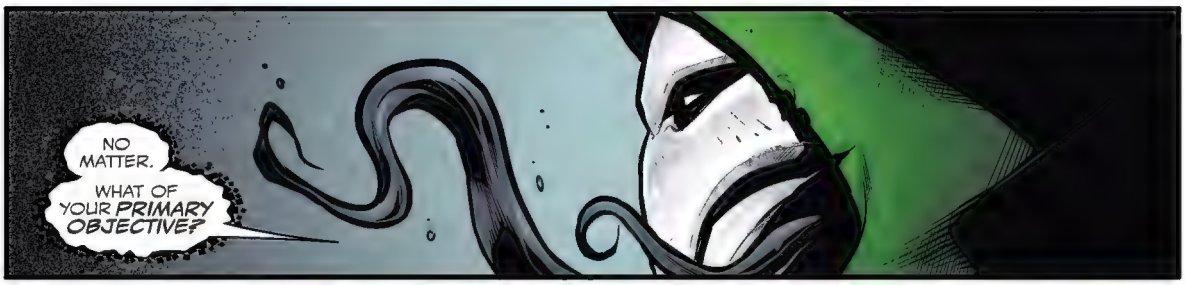
HTT--
THAT'S IT!
PUT UP A FIGHT, CAP'N!
LET CARNAGE HAVE HISSS FUN!
WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE WHILE THE POISONSSS ARE DISTRACTED!
FLAME-HEAD'S RIGHT!
I'M NOT WASTING MY NEW BOMB TO COVER OUR ESCAPE!
I'M SAVING IT FOR A RAINY DAY!
WHAT?
NNNNN--
I DON'T LIKE THESE VARIABLES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE OTHERS!
GET WHAT WE CAME FOR AND MOVE OUT!

...THE STRAIN OF BRINGING CARNAGE THROUGH...
...NOT RECOVERING QUICKLY ENOUGH...
REEEAAAARRRRGH!
...BUT MY WARDS ARE INTACT...
...Y-YOU'LL NOT HAVE ME...
WHY WAS I EVER AFRAID?
IT'S SO CLEAR NOW... WHAT THEY WANT... WHY THEY NEED US!
AND I HAVE BECOME SO MUCH MORE THAN I WAS!
I AM--

DEAD! DEAD! DEAD!
THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
DEAD AS ANY DEAD THING I'VE EVER MADE--
GLLLGGGK!
HRRRGGK--
Whoooosh
YEEEAAAARRRGH!
DIRTY... FILTHY... TRICK!
HNH.
HHT.
I'M SORRY, STEPHEN.
YOUR NEW SOLDIER CAUGHT US OFF GUARD.
BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO SAVE YOU.

HEY--
IS THAT IT?
DID THEY HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE?
DON'T WORRY, CLETUS.
THERE'LL BE MORE.
YOU STICK WITH US, THERE'LL BE PLENTY.
SOUND OFF.
WHO'S STILL WITH US?
LOOKS LIKE MOST OF US CAME THROUGH UNSCATHED.
EXCEPT THIS GUY.
I MESSED HIM ALL UP!
HIS NAME WAS ROBBIE.
THAT RIGHT?
WELL, I'LL BE SURE TO BLOW IN A SNOT RAG IN HIS HONOR WHEN I FEEL LIKE SNIVELING.
EVERYONE-- WHERE IS DOCTOR STRANGE?

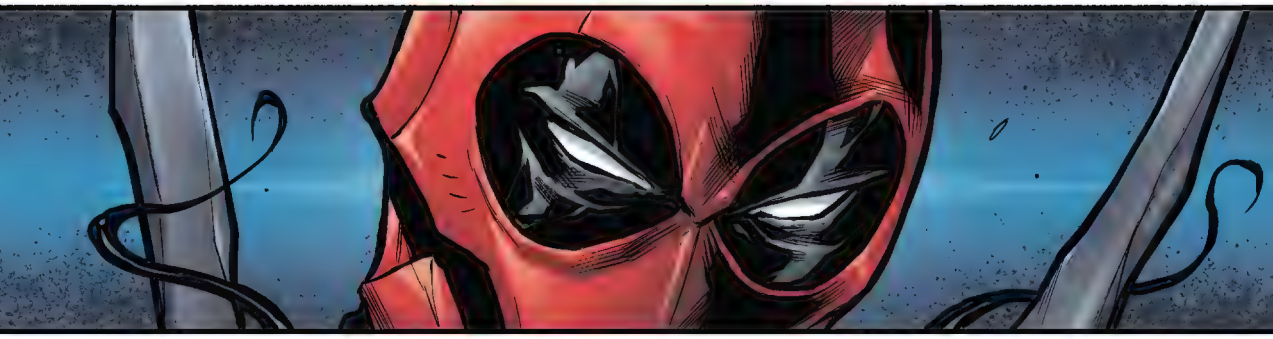

"DID ANYONE SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?"
THEY HAVE CALLED SOMETHING...NEW TO THEIR DEFENSE.
I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
IT WAS FAST...VICIOUS... UNPREDICTABLE.
ITS TOUCH...ITS CLAWS AND BLADES...
...IT CUT THROUGH US WITH EASE.
IT WAS THE COLOR OF BLOOD. I HEARD ONE OF THE HOSTS CALL IT--
CARNAGE.
YOU KNEW NOTHING OF THIS?
HEY!
THEY NEVER TOLD DEADPOOL ANYTHING!


NO MATTER.
WHAT OF YOUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE?

WE SUCCEEDED, SIR.
WE HAVE THE SORCERER.

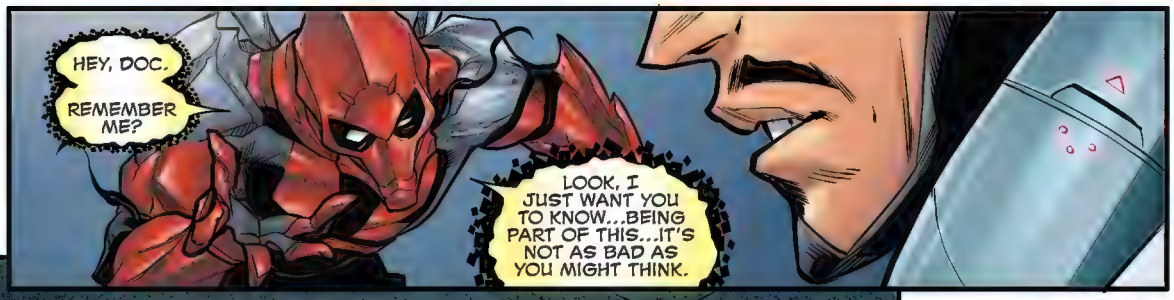
HE IS WEAK.
THE SPELLS HE'S BEEN CASTING HAVE DRAINED HIM.
I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE LONG BEFORE WE BREAK THROUGH HIS MYSTIC DEFENSES.

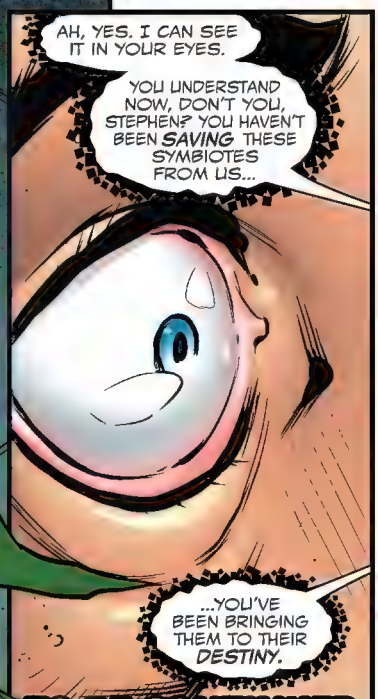
SHOW ME.



THIS WAY. IT'S CLEAR.
WHERE TO NOW?
NOT SURE THERE'S ANYWHERE WE CAN GO. THEY'LL FIND US.
THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO FIND US.
LET THEM! I'M READY TO GET MY CLAWS WET!
HEY--WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE MURDEROUS HAYSEED SHTICK A REST FOR A FEW MINUTES, HUH?
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SO SUCCESSFUL AS A SERIAL KILLER?
DO YOU JUST ANNOY PEOPLE 'TIL THEY'RE BEGGING YOU TO PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY?
YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE, CARNAGE. JUST COOL IT FOR NOW.
YOU AND ME AIN'T DONE, DADDY.
I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT
IT'S JUST THAT THESE OTHER FELLAS ARE MORE FUN TO KILL THAN YOU ARE
WELL SOMEBODY'S GOING TO COME UP WITH A PLAN, RIGHT?
CARNAGE IS A GOOD WEAPON, BUT HE MIGHT CUT OUR THROATS IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL.
WE'VE LOST OUR WAY OFF THIS PLANET...AND OUR MEANS OF BRINGING IN REINFORCEMENTS.
WE NEED SOME SORT OF STRATEGY...AND IT BETTER BE A GOOD ONE.
REINFORCEMENTS, SONOVA--
STRANGE HASN'T JUST BEEN BRINGING IN SOLDIERS FOR THIS WAR OF HIS...

"...HE'S BEEN BRINGING THEM ALL THE FOOD THEY COULD EVER WANT!"
STEPHEN, MY DARLING.
JUST LOWER YOUR WARDS FOR ONE MOMENT.
I ONLY WANT TO TOUCH YOU.
TO COMFORT YOU.
YOUR DISGUISE IS POINTLESS.
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FOOL THE OTHERS.
I, HOWEVER, CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THE ILLUSION.
I SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU REALLY ARE.
YOUR POWERS ARE GREAT, DOCTOR.
BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST US FOREVER.
WE ALL HAD MAGICAL DEFENSES.
AND WE ALL SUCCUMBED.





TO BE CONTINUED...

Don't miss...

VENOMVERSE

MARVEL
#4
cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY
VENOMVERSE
MARVEL
INHUMANS
A MARVEL TELEVISION SERIES
ABC SEPT 29

WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

VENOM HAS BEEN DRAFTED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST A MYSTERIOUS EXTRATTERSTRAIL SPECIES CALLED ***POISONS****, WHO HAVE BEEN HUNTING DOWN SYMBIOTIC HEROES AND STEALING THEIR ABILITIES.*

WITH THE AID OF DOCTOR STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA FORMED A SMALL RESISTANCE AND SUMMONED HEROIC VENOMS FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, BUT WAS CAPTURED AND TURNED AFTER A POISON AMBUSH – THE FIRST OF SEVERAL RECENT CASUALTIES, INCLUDING SPIDER-MAN AND DEADPOOL. WITH THEIR NUMBERS DWINDLING AND DOCTOR STRANGE GROWING WEAKER WITH EVERY SUMMONING, THE RESISTANCE MADE A HAIL MARY PLAY AND USED STRANGE'S REMAINING MAGIC TO SUMMON THE SERIAL KILLER ***CARNAGE****.*

CARNAGE HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST THE POISONS, BUT WASN'T ENOUGH TO STOP THEM FROM KIDNAPPING DOCTOR STRANGE IN THEIR LATEST ASSAULT!

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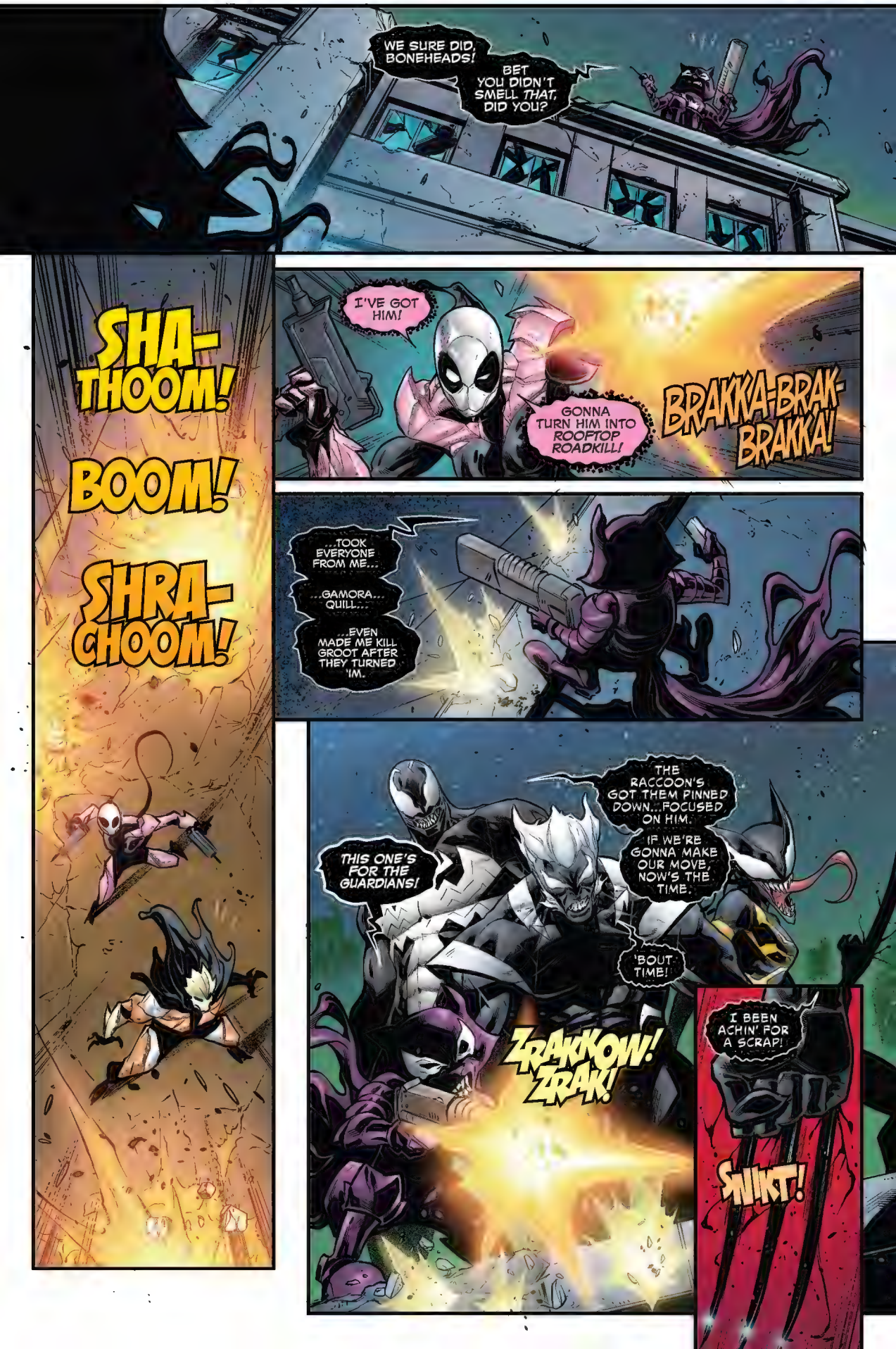
THEY'RE NEARBY.
I CAN SMELL THEM.
SYMBIOTES.
IT'S CUTE.
THEY KEEP HIDING FROM US...AND WE KEEP FINDING THEM.
SNIFF! SFXX!
KRRNCH
BEEEI
SHRA-BOOM!
STAY ALERT! THEY'VE MINED THE STREETS!
YA THINK?!

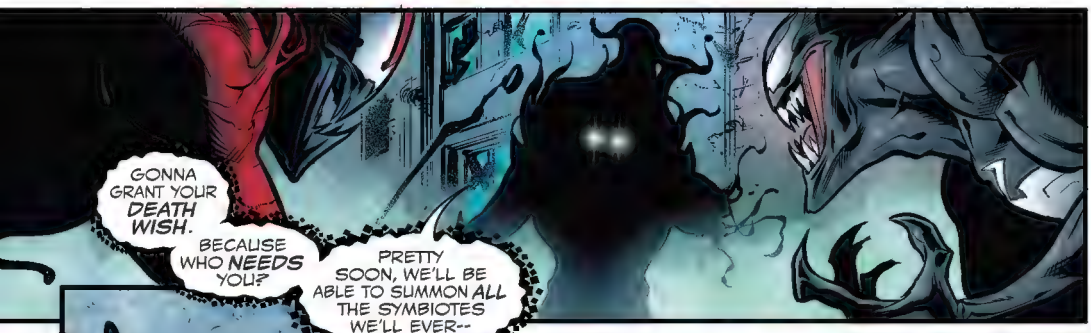

WE SURE DID, BONEHEADS!
BET YOU DIDN'T SMELL THAT, DID YOU?
SHA-THOOM!
BOOM!
SHRA-CHOOM!
I'VE GOT HIM!
GONNA TURN HIM INTO ROOFTOP ROADKILL!
BRAKKA-BRAK-BRAKKA!
...TOOK EVERYONE FROM ME...
...GAMORA... QUILL...
...EVEN MADE ME KILL GROOT AFTER THEY TURNED 'IM.
THE RACCOON'S GOT THEM PINNED DOWN...FOCUSED ON HIM.
IF WE'RE GONNA MAKE OUR MOVE, NOW'S THE TIME.
THIS ONE'S FOR THE GUARDIANS!
'BOUT TIME!
ZRAKKOW! ZRAK!
I BEEN ACHIN' FOR A SCRAP!
SNIKT!

RRRAAAGH!
OH, LOOK!
OLD MAN RUNT AND HIS GRANDDAUGHTER WANT TO PLAY!
SHRAKT!
HHT!
NICE TRY, GIRL.
YOU HAVE SPIRIT.
WE WILL TAKE THAT FROM YOU, CLAIM IT FOR THE HIVE.
YEEARRGH!
YOU WERE ALWAYS A WORTHLESS MONGREL, CREED!
BUT NOT EVEN YOU DESERVE THIS!
WE'RE PUTTING YOU DOWN.
SLGGHK!

NEITHER ONE OF YOU COULD TAKE ME DOWN BEFORE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME NOW?
DON'T YOU SEE? WE'RE BETTER THAN YOU!
LET'S SEE.
WHICH LITTLE VENOM DO I SHOOT FIRST?
HOW ABOUT NEITHER?
NUH--
GRAAAAGH!
HEY! HANDS OFF!
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
WE'VE SEEN HULK VENOMS AND CAPTAIN AMERICA VENOMS AND WOLVERINE VENOMS...
...BUT YOU'RE SORT OF A PLAIN JANE, AREN'T YOU?
ARE YOU THE BORING FRIEND WHO GETS INVITED TO THE PARTY OUT OF PITY?
THWOK!
HEY, UP THERE!
DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME!

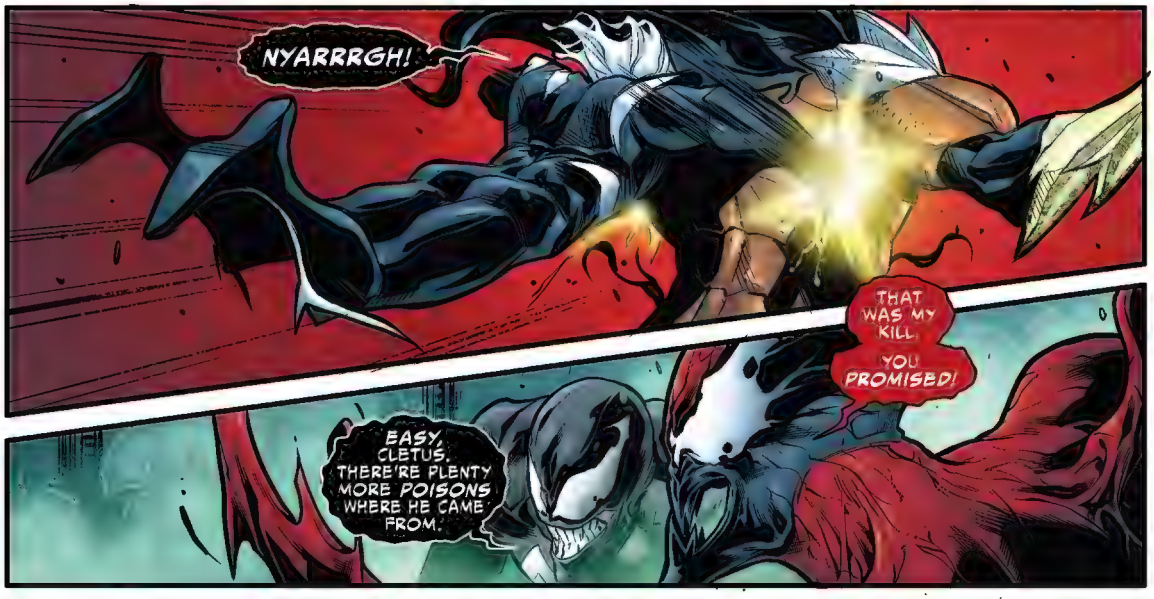
GIANT-SIZED ANT-VENOM!
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT KIND OF GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
ARE YOU ALL JUST SO TIRED OF RUNNING AND HIDING?
SOME KIND OF SUICIDE RUN?
OH, YEAH. SHE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
ALL RIGHT. DO YOUR THING, BIG RED!
THEN WE'VE GOT WHAT WE NEED.
HNN--
LANDMINES AIN'T THE ONLY THING THEY PLANTED IN THE GROUND, BABY!

I'M THE ATOM BOMB!
SO, YOU'RE THEIR ACE IN THE HOLE.
HERE'S THE THING ABOUT SECRET WEAPONS.
ONCE THEY'VE BEEN REVEALED, THEY'RE NOT NEARLY SO DEADLY.
YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT...
...YOU MIGHT EVEN START TO BELIEVE IT!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, DAD!
STOP PLAYING!
FINISH HIM OFF!
HEY--IF I CAN'T ENJOY MY WORK, WHAT'S THE POINT?
RRRAAAAGH!


GONNA GRANT YOUR DEATH WISH.
BECAUSE WHO NEEDS YOU?
PRETTY SOON, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SUMMON ALL THE SYMBIOTES WE'LL EVER--

AH, SHADDUP.

ZRAKKA!
ZRAK!
ZRAK!

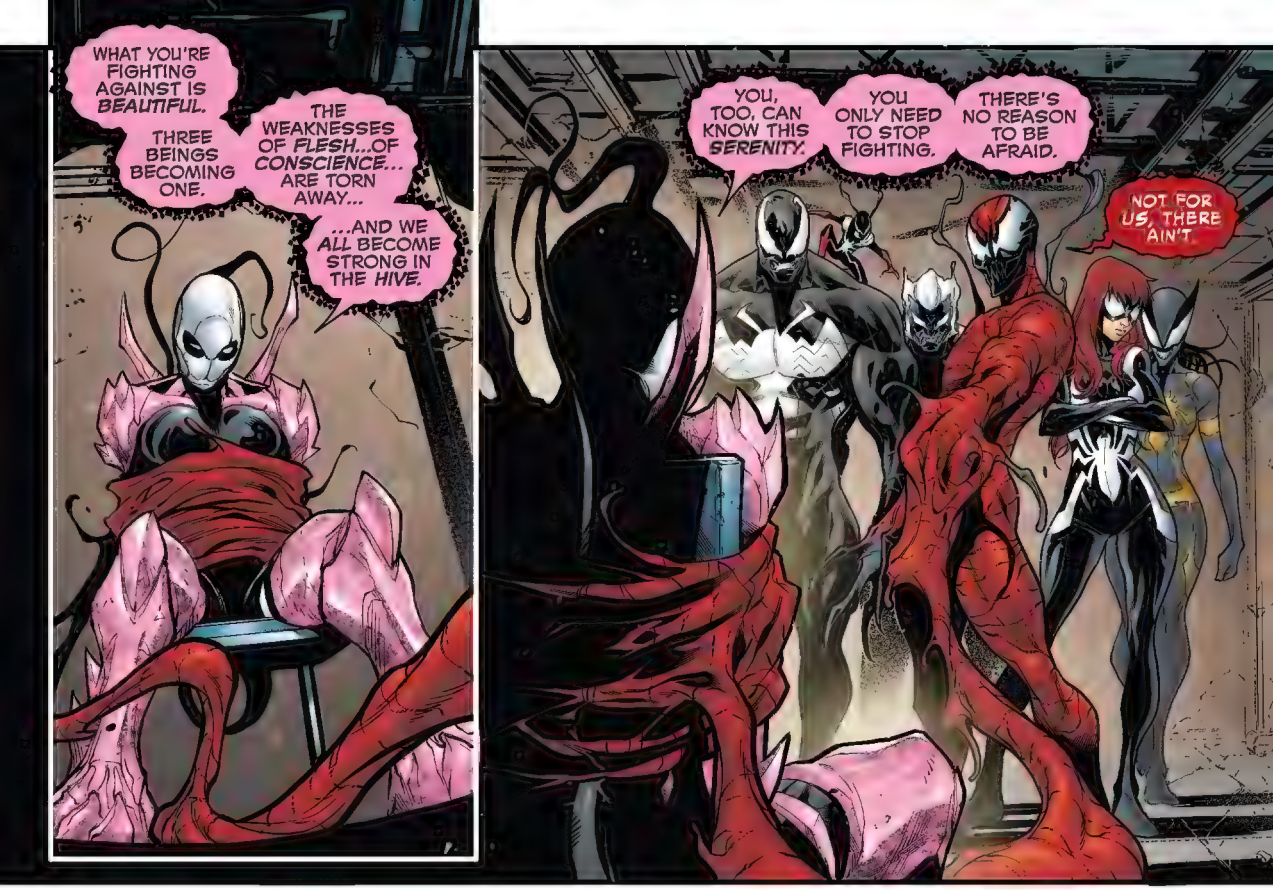

NYARRRGH!
THAT WAS MY KILL.
YOU PROMISED!
EASY, CLETUS. THERE'RE PLENTY MORE POISONS WHERE HE CAME FROM.

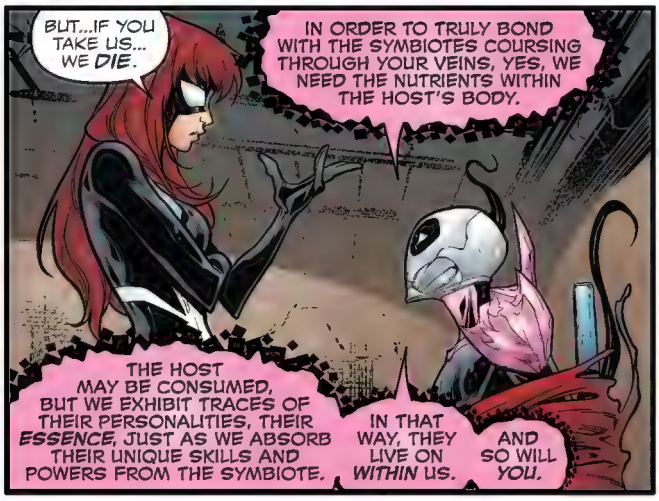
A BUNCH OF SPOILSPORTS, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
SLLLSSSH!

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND...
...ONCE THEY'RE ALL GONE...
...YOU JOKERS ARE NEXT.
WE'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING WE NEED YOU RIGHT NOW.
AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.
I GOTTA ADMIT...
...IT FELT NICE TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM FOR A CHANGE.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, KID.
HEY, GUYS.
CAN I PUT GWEN DOWN NOW?
CAN I PASS HER OVER TO YOU?
EH?
THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHIN'.
LET'S GET SOME COVER.
THERE MIGHT BE MORE POISONS OUT THERE.
AND I DON'T WANT THEM INTERRUPTING US...

"...BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE ALL COMING FROM."
SCARLET WITCH.
WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING ME?
LORD DOOM.
HAVE WE MADE HEADWAY WITH THE MAGICIAN?
WE HAVE.
DOCTOR STRANGE IS WEAKENING.
I CAN FEEL HIS DEFENSES COMING UNDONE.
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE BREAKS.
YES, TIME.
FOR SO LONG OUR SPECIES WAS SO PITIFUL...SO FEEBLE... NOTHING BUT QUARRY FOR MORE POWERFUL BEINGS.
BUT, WITH STEPHEN'S HELPING HAND, WE FOUND THE WEAPONS OF OUR ASCENSION.
IN TIME, WE WILL HAVE MORE POWER THAN WE COULD EVER DREAM...

"...AND WE WILL NEVER BE PREY AGAIN."
LOOKOUT DUTY STINKS, RIGHT?
THERE ARE WORSE WAYS TO SPEND ONE'S TIME.
MEH. I GUESS.
BEFORE DOCTOR STRANGE PULLED YOU INTO THIS WORLD...THIS FIGHT...WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER?
I WAS TAKING PART IN A GLOBAL PEACE SUMMIT.
I WAS PLANNING TO PRESENT A NEW ACCORD MY PEOPLE HAD BEEN DEVELOPING.
AND YOU?
IN SCHOOL DETENTION.
AND NOW WE'RE TOGETHER-- THE KING AND THE BURNOUT...
...KEEPING WATCH SO THE BIG, BAD POISONS DON'T SNEAK UP ON US AND EAT US.
YES.
LOOKOUT DUTY DOES TRULY STINK.
"IT'S TRAGIC, REALLY. NONE OF YOU GET IT, DO YOU?"

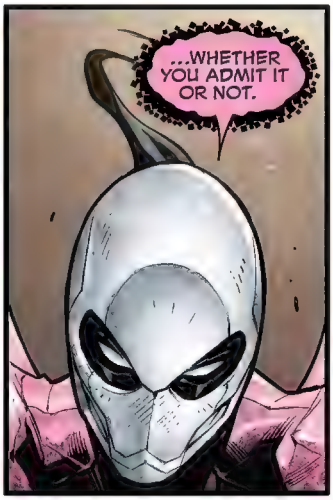

WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING AGAINST IS BEAUTIFUL.
THREE BEINGS BECOMING ONE.
THE WEAKNESSES OF FLESH...OF CONSCIENCE... ARE TORN AWAY...
...AND WE ALL BECOME STRONG IN THE HIVE.
YOU, TOO, CAN KNOW THIS SERENITY.
YOU ONLY NEED TO STOP FIGHTING.
THERE'S NO REASON TO BE AFRAID.
NOT FOR US, THERE AIN'T.


BUT...IF YOU TAKE US... WE DIE.
IN ORDER TO TRULY BOND WITH THE SYMBIOTES COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS, YES, WE NEED THE NUTRIENTS WITHIN THE HOST'S BODY.
THE HOST MAY BE CONSUMED, BUT WE EXHIBIT TRACES OF THEIR PERSONALITIES, THEIR ESSENCE, JUST AS WE ABSORB THEIR UNIQUE SKILLS AND POWERS FROM THE SYMBIOTE.
IN THAT WAY, THEY LIVE ON WITHIN US.
AND SO WILL YOU.

YOU CALL US POISONS. BUT THAT IS A NAME THAT COMES FROM FEAR.
WE ARE THE PERFECT HOSTS FOR THE KLYNTAR. THROUGH CONSUMING YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES AND BONDING WITH THE SYMBIOTES, WE SILENCE THEM. QUELL THE CHAOS OF YOUR TWO MINDS VYING FOR CONTROL.

TRUE SYMBIOSIS. UNION.
WHEN THEY BOND WITH US, THEY BECOME APEX PREDATORS.

AND DEEP DOWN, THAT IS WHAT EVERY VENOM WANTS...


...WHETHER YOU ADMIT IT OR NOT.

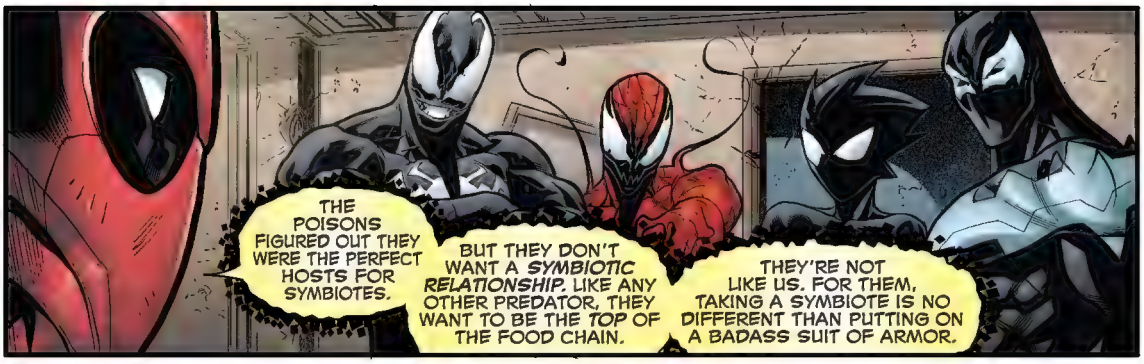
THE POISONS HAVE A LAIR SOMEWHERE.
WHERE DO WE FIND THEM?
TELL US WHERE YOU'RE ALL COMING FROM!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
YOU BETTER START TALKING QUICK, GIRL
I'M GETTING REAL ANTSY, AND IF YOU AREN'T USEFUL, I MIGHT GUT YOU.
YOUR THREATS ARE POINTLESS.
THIS GOES BEYOND LOYALTY AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT.
I WOULD NEVER BETRAY THE HIVE.
BUT YOU'RE ONLY HUNTING OUR SPECIFIC SYMBIOTES.
WHY NOT OTHERS?
YOU KRATOONS DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO CONSUME CARNAGE.
THAT'S A RIDE THEY WOULDN'T SURVIVE, RODENT.
WE TAKE WHAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO US.
AS FOR THE CARNAGE ENTITY, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT YET.
BUT WE WILL. SOON.

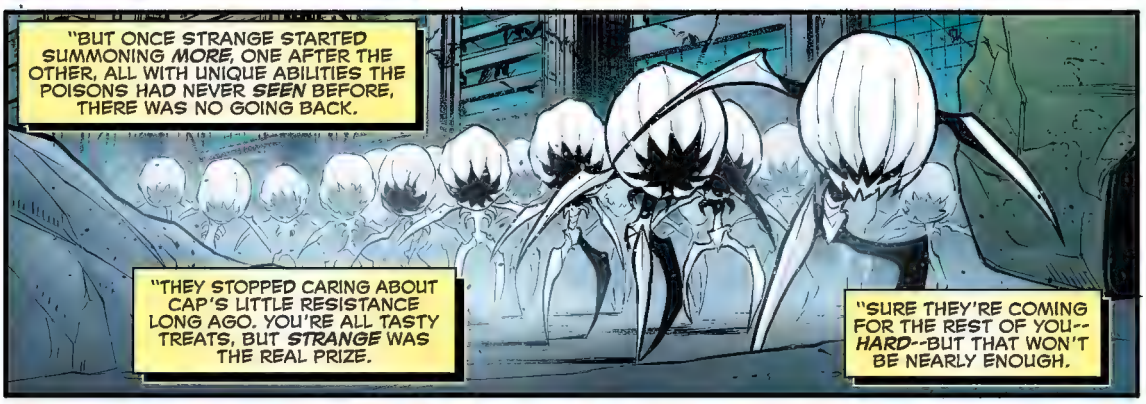
CHOK!
CH-CHOK!
CHOK!
DEADPOOL!
HEY, GANG!
MISS ME?
WE TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE'S BEEN TURNED!
HE'S... STRONG!
GETTING REAL TIRED OF CLAIM JUMPERS TAKING MY KILLS!
GONNA TAKE THAT ONE OUT OF YOUR HIDE!

CAREFUL!
DON'T KILL HIM!
DON'T?
WAIT... ARE YOU TALKING TO *THEM* OR *ME*?
I'M CONFUSED.
YOU KILLED HER... ONE OF YOUR OWN.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
SHE WAS JUST A KNOCKOFF OF A KNOCK-OFF.
AND SHE WASN'T GOING TO HELP YOU GUYS, THAT'S FOR SURE.
SHE SLURPED UP ALL THE POISON KOOL-AID.
ME, ON THE OTHER HAND, I WENT THROUGH THE MEAT GRINDER...
...JUST SO I COULD COME BACK HERE ALL HEROIC-LIKE...
...AND GIVE YOU ALL THE *DEETS* YOU'LL EVER NEED.
BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU MAY WANT TO TIE ME UP ANYHOW... JUST IN CASE.
"YOU CAN ONLY RESIST FOR SO LONG..."

WOULDN'T IT BE SO MUCH EASIER TO JUST GIVE IN?
YOUR STRUGGLES ARE SO PAINFUL.
AND YOU KNOW THAT EVENTUALLY WE WILL TAKE WHAT WE WANT ANYWAY.
I...KNOW... NO SUCH THING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT, DOC.
THIS IS A GOOD THING. ONCE YOU'RE WITH THEM...YOU'LL BE AT PEACE.
THERE'S UNITY IN THE HIVE, STEPHEN.
WE DON'T RESENT YOU FOR SUMMONING US TO THIS WAR. WE SHOULD THANK YOU.
SURRENDER. BECOME ONE OF US.
THAT IS THE FIRST STEP IN ENDING THIS CONFLICT.
DECEIVERS.
YOU WANTED ME TO SUMMON SOLDIERS TO FIGHT YOU...AND I WAS BLINDED BY MY OWN HUBRIS AND FEAR.
BUT I'LL NOT SERVE UP ANOTHER SYMBIOTE FOR YOUR APPETITES.
YOUR SPECIES WILL HAVE TO BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, BECAUSE YOU'LL NOT GET ANOTHER.
I WONDER... DO POISONS RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS?
WILL JEALOUSY REAR ITS HEAD?
WILL YOUR SPECIES TEAR ITSELF APART?
NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, STRANGE...
...YOU WILL SERVE US...

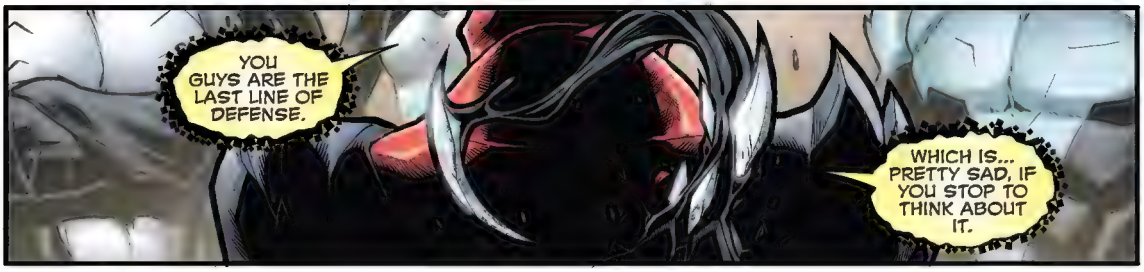
"...AND YOU WILL BRING MORE SYMBIOTES TO OUR FEEDING GROUND."
HMM.
TYING ME DOWN WITH LONG, SPINDLY CARNAGE TENTACLES.
EFFECTIVE.
GROSS...BUT EFFECTIVE.
IT'S GOOD. NICE AND TIGHT.
I'M NOT SURE HOW FREQUENTLY...OR FOR HOW LONG... I CAN STAY IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.
HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE FIGHTING OFF THE POISON'S CONTROL?
I NOTICED THAT SPIDEY... WHEN HE WAS CONSUMED...HELD ONTO A FEW SHREDS OF HIS PERSONALITY.
I BANKED ON MY BRAND OF CRAZY, I GUESS.
YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF...
...SO YOU COULD BE A SPY?
I KNOW! I'M SURPRISED TOO.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD OUT FOR, THOUGH. SOONER OR LATER, EVIL POISON DEADPOOL IS GONNA TAKE OVER.
SO SHUT UP AND LISTEN FOR A MINUTE.
WE THOUGHT STRANGE HAD BEEN SUMMONING US TO STOP THE POISONS FROM ERADICATING VENOMS...
...BUT THE TRUTH IS WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT--WORSE THAN EVEN STRANGE KNEW, I BET.
YOU THINK THIS IS THE WAR? IT'S NOT. IT'S JUST PART OF SOMETHING MUCH, MUCH BIGGER.


THE POISONS FIGURED OUT THEY WERE THE PERFECT HOSTS FOR SYMBIOTES.
BUT THEY DON'T WANT A *SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP*. LIKE ANY OTHER PREDATOR, THEY WANT TO BE THE *TOP* OF THE FOOD CHAIN.
THEY'RE NOT LIKE US. FOR THEM, TAKING A SYMBIOTE IS NO DIFFERENT THAN PUTTING ON A BADASS SUIT OF ARMOR.


"BUT ONCE STRANGE STARTED SUMMONING *MORE*, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, ALL WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES THE POISONS HAD NEVER *SEEN* BEFORE, THERE WAS NO GOING BACK.
"THEY STOPPED CARING ABOUT CAP'S LITTLE RESISTANCE LONG AGO. YOU'RE ALL TASTY TREATS, BUT *STRANGE* WAS THE REAL PRIZE.
"SURE THEY'RE COMING FOR THE REST OF YOU--*HARD*--BUT THAT WON'T BE NEARLY ENOUGH.

"THEY'RE SO CLOSE TO *ERADICATING* YOU AND *TURNING* STRANGE THAT THEY'RE STARTING TO *FRENZY* LIKE SHARKS IN CHUMMED WATERS.
"EVENTUALLY, STRANGE WILL BREAK, AND THEY'LL USE HIM TO SUMMON AS MANY SOUPED-UP SYMBIOTES AS POSSIBLE.

"SOONER OR LATER, THEY'LL HAVE ALL THE SYMBIOTES THEY COULD EVER NEED.
"WHEN THAT HAPPENS, DO YOU THINK THEY'RE JUST GONNA *RELAX?*
"NoOoOoO. THEY'LL START BRANCHING OUT, AND THEN THEY'LL USE THE SYMBIOTES AS *WEAPONS* AGAINST ANYONE WHO GETS IN THEIR WAY.
"AND YOU'LL ALL BE TOO *DEAD* TO STOP THEM."


YOU GUYS ARE THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.
WHICH IS... PRETTY SAD, IF YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU ALL ONE LAST BITE AT THE OL' POISON APPLE.
YOU GUYS WANT INTO POISON HQ? I CAN DO THAT.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STAGE A FULL-SCALE RAID, RESCUE STRANGE, AND GET AWAY WITH YOUR... HEH...SKINS.
CARNAGE IS TOUGH, SURE...BUT HE'LL GO DOWN IF WE THROW ENOUGH BODIES AT HIM.
YOU WANNA BE FIRST IN LINE, BROTHER?
SIGH
SURE.
HKK--
WHY NOT?
SEE?
THAT'S THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, HAYSEED.

"THAT'S THE TRICK THAT SNEAKS RIGHT UP ON YOU AND DIGS IN TO ALL SORTS OF *UNCOMFORTABLE PLACES!*"
SPIDER-MAN, THE REPORTS--
THEY'RE *TRUE*.
HE APPEARED AT THE OUTER PERIMETER JUST MINUTES AGO.
HE'LL BE AT THE GATES ANY TIME NOW.
YOUR HEIGHTENED SENSES...DO THEY TELL YOU ANYTHING?
DANGER.
BUT THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
EVERYBODY CAN RELAX!

I'VE RETURNED FROM THE HEART OF VENOM CENTRAL!
THEY PUT UP A HELLUVA FIGHT...
...BUT I SHOWED THEM WHO'S BOSS. AND LOOK!
I BROUGHT US BACK A NICE NEW FRIEND TO DISSECT!
TO BE CONTINUED...

DON'T MISS THE EPIC CONCLUSION!

VENOMVERSE

MARVEL
cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY
#5
VENOMVERSE

WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

A NEW SPECIES CALLED **POISONS** HAVE BEEN HUNTING A SMALL BAND OF SYMBIOTIC HEROES, STEALING THEIR ABILITIES AND CONSUMING THEM IN THE PROCESS.

AFTER TWO SEPARATE POISON AMBUSHES, BOTH CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SPIDER-MAN HAVE BEEN TURNED, LEAVING **EDDIE BROCK/VENOM** TO LEAD THE GROUP. FOR HIS FIRST ACT IN COMMAND, BROCK ORDERED DOCTOR STRANGE TO SUMMON THE BLOODTHIRSTY SERIAL KILLER CARNAGE AS A SECRET WEAPON. IN HIS FIRST CONFLICT, CARNAGE PROVED EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE POISONS, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO KIDNAP DOCTOR STRANGE AS THEY RETREATED.

MEANWHILE, DEADPOOL WILLINGLY OFFERED HIMSELF TO THE POISONS ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT HIS UNIQUE PERSONALITY MIGHT SURVIVE THE BONDING PROCESS. HIS GAMBLE PAID OFF, AND HE LEARNED THE TRUTH: THANKS TO STRANGE'S SUMMONING OF THE VENOMS, THE POISONS KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF A MULTIVERSE – ONE WITH MORE POWERED BEINGS RIPE FOR CONSUMPTION THAN THEY COULD HAVE EVER DREAMED!

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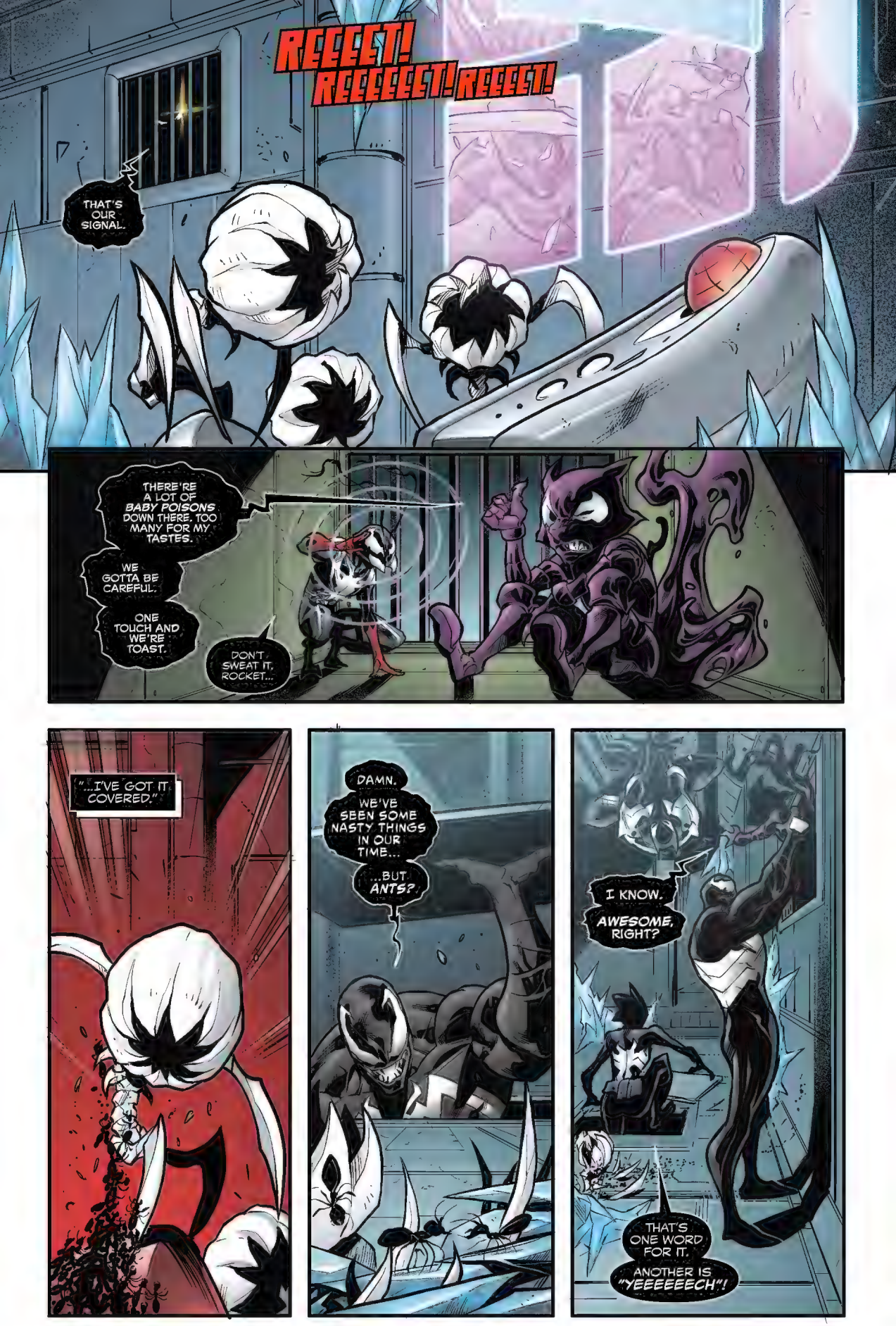
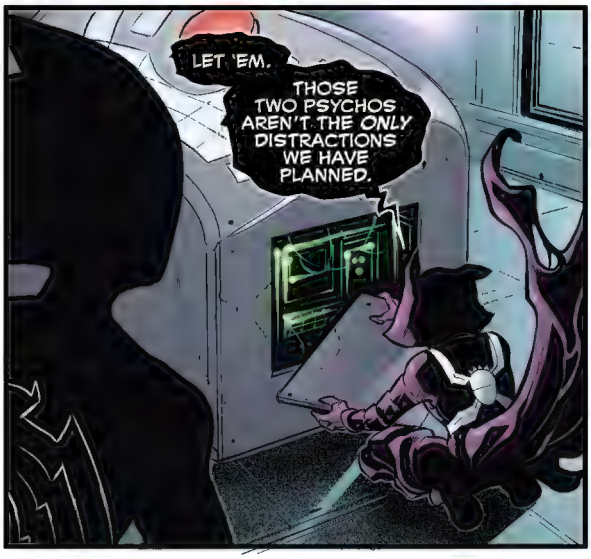
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
HE KNOWS THE SONIC RESTRAINTS WILL TORMENT HIM, BUT STILL HE STRUGGLES.
CARNAGE ISN'T ONE TO GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT.
SOON WE WILL HAVE ALL THE SYMBIOTES WE WILL EVER NEED.
THEN WE'LL PEEL HIM APART AND DISCOVER HOW WE MIGHT USE HIS SYMBIOTE AS WELL.
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO COUNTER OUR VULNERABILITY TO THOSE LIKE HIM.
PERHAPS WE WILL EVEN DISCOVER A MEANS TO ADD HIM TO OUR ARSENAL.
BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW AND YOU'LL CHOKE ON--
YEEEEARRRGH!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
LOUD, HUH?
THAT'S GOOD.
IT COVERS THE SOUND--

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
--OF ME GUTTING YOU!
NICE JOB SETTING OFF THOSE RESTRAINTS TO GIVE US A LITTLE COVER.
WASN'T ON PURPOSE!
WELL... NICE JOB BEING AN IDIOT.
IT'S GONNA BE A BLOODY RIDE!
ON YER FEET, CARNAGE.
WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO.
YEAH, YEAH.
CAUSE A DISTRACTION SO THE REST OF YOUR LITTLE BUDDIES CAN MAKE THEIR MOVE.
WELL, STRAP IN.


REEEET!
REEEEEET!
REEEET!
THAT'S OUR SIGNAL.
THERE'RE A LOT OF BABY POISONS DOWN THERE, TOO MANY FOR MY TASTES.
WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
ONE TOUCH AND WE'RE TOAST.
DON'T SWEAT IT, ROCKET...
"...I'VE GOT IT COVERED."
DAMN.
WE'VE SEEN SOME NASTY THINGS IN OUR TIME...
...BUT ANTS?
I KNOW.
AWESOME, RIGHT?
THAT'S ONE WORD FOR IT.
ANOTHER IS "YEEEEEECH"!

ALL RIGHT. TIME TO SHAKE THINGS UP.
MJ, LOGAN--STAY WITH THE RACCOON AND THE ANT. KEEP UNFRIENDLIES OFF THEIR BACK.
PANTHER, WOLVERINE, MANIA--YOU'RE WITH US. WE FIND STRANGE BEFORE ROCKET BRINGS THIS PLACE DOWN AROUND OUR EARS.
YOU GOT THIS?
EH, Y'KNOW.
THIS WHOLE PLACE IS A *SHIP*.
SHIPS HAVE ENGINES...AND REACTORS... AND *FUEL*.
THAT MAKES FOR A FUN *RECIPE*.

CARNAGE AND DEADPOOL ARE DOING ***THEIR*** PART.
IT WON'T TAKE LONG, THOUGH, BEFORE THE POISONS SEE THROUGH THE MISDIRECTION.


LET 'EM.
THOSE TWO PSYCHOS AREN'T THE *ONLY* DISTRACTIONS WE HAVE PLANNED.

WAY I SEE IT, THESE POISONS MIGHT BE *HARD CASES* NOW, BUT THAT WASN'T *ALWAYS* THE WAY.
BEFORE THEY FOUND OUT THAT VENOM SYMBIOTES WOULD TURN THEM INTO MONSTERS, THEY WERE WEAK, COWARDLY.

"THAT JUST GAVE THEM A SHOT IN THE ARM.
"GAVE THEM A KICK IN THE REAR, BUT IT TURNED THEM INTO BULLIES, TOO.
"GUESS WE ALL KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THAT.
"BUT WE AREN'T THE ONES HUNTING PEOPLE--CONSUMING PEOPLE.
"WE CHOSE TO BE BETTER--TO BE PROTECTORS. THEY THINK THAT'S A WEAKNESS. DESPITE TAKING DOZENS OF US, THEY STILL DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.
"THAT VALUING LIFE DOESN'T MAKE YOU INCAPABLE OF TAKING IT WHEN SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE.
"THEY WON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH US...
"...NOT WHEN WE STOP RUNNING...
"...NOT WHEN WE START HITTING BACK..."

"...NOT WHEN WE'RE WILLING TO DIE FIGHTING THEM."
THIS STUFF MAKES NO SENSE.
IT'S ALL... ALIEN.
HEH.
WHO DO YA THINK YER DEALING WITH?
THIS IS CAKE.

IF IT'S SO EASY, THEN MAKE IT SNAPPY.
YEAH, WE'RE SITTING--

SHUNK!

WE GOT COMPANY.
DON'T WORRY, OLD MAN...

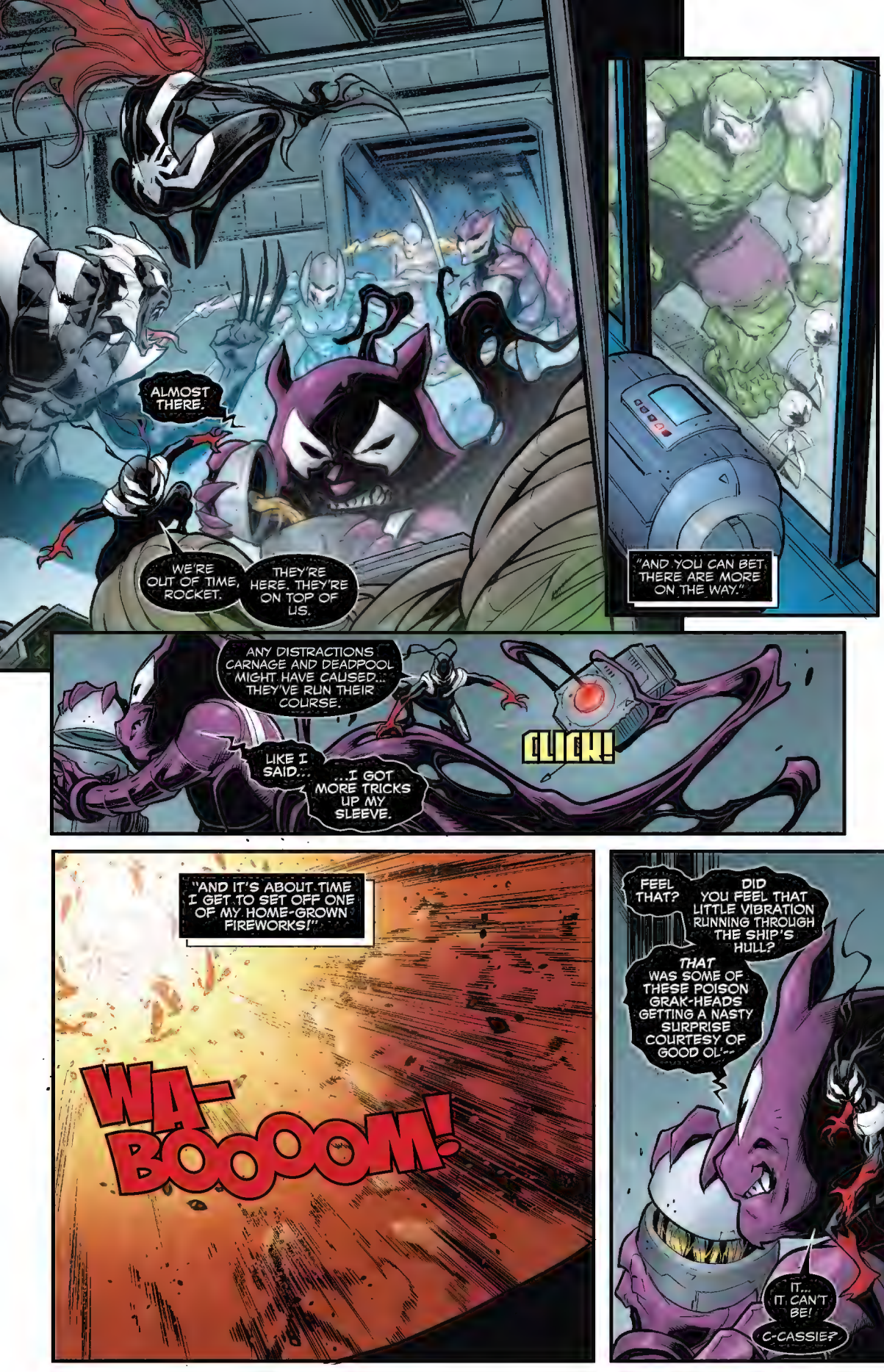
...I'LL HOLD THEM OFF.
"HE IS BREAKING."

HIS DEFENSES ARE FAILING.
IN A FEW MORE MINUTES, HE WILL BE OURS.
WE WILL CONSUME HIM AND USE HIS GIFTS TO BRING MORE WEAPONS INTO OUR ARSENAL.
YOU CAN'T EVEN HANDLE THE "WEAPONS" YOU'VE GOT.
YOU'RE JUST LETTING YOUR MOUTH WRITE CHECKS YOUR BUTTS CAN'T CASH!
I DON'T THINK SO, PAL!
THUMP!
I KNOW BETTER THAN TO LET YOU WIZARD TYPES GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE.
HRRRGK!
SGGGGLKT!
A SOLID STRATEGY.
THESE POISONS HEAL QUICKLY, THOUGH-- MORE QUICKLY THAN WE DO!
WASTE NO TIME WITH STRANGE.
SHAKGT!
MANIA--THE WIZARD!

I HOPE YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER TRICK OR TWO UP YOUR SLEEVE, DOC.
I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING SO LONG...I MAY NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH.
YOU NEED TO GET US OUT OF IT.
I'LL DO...
...WHAT I CAN.
KSSSSH!
WHAT IS HE--
NO! The protective spell!

AS LONG AS THEY ARE WITHIN MY SIGILS, THEIR SPELLS CANNOT HARM US.
BUT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM FOR LONG.
YOU CANNOT HOPE TO STOP US.
FOR A TIME, WE WERE SATISFIED WITH THE BEINGS OF THIS DIMENSION. BUT NOW? NOW THE HIVE IS TOO STRONG.
WE HAVE OUTGROWN THIS WORLD--THIS REALITY!
AND IT IS ALL THANKS TO YOU, STRANGE! YOU HAVE BROUGHT CONVERTS FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE ON A PILGRIMAGE--BROUGHT CRUSADERS TO THE FRONT LINES OF YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION!
SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH.
WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT.
WE'RE ENDING THIS WAR YOU'VE BROUGHT US INTO...
...AND WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
YOU WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE, WERE YOU?
THAT'S NOT NICE, EDDIE.
WE HAVEN'T HAD OUR REMATCH YET.
THE REST OF YOU... STICK TO THE PLAN.
GET OUT OF HERE. GET TO ROCKET.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU... OR MAYBE NOT.
IF I DIE BEATING THE SNOT OUT OF THIS GUY...

...IT'LL BE WORTH IT!
SMASH!


ALMOST THERE.
WE'RE OUT OF TIME, ROCKET.
THEY'RE HERE. THEY'RE ON TOP OF US.
"AND YOU CAN BET THERE ARE MORE ON THE WAY."
ANY DISTRACTIONS CARNAGE AND DEADPOOL MIGHT HAVE CAUSED... THEY'VE RUN THEIR COURSE.
CLICK!
LIKE I SAID...
...I GOT MORE TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE.
"AND IT'S ABOUT TIME I GET TO SET OFF ONE OF MY HOME-GROWN FIREWORKS!"
WA-BOOOOM!
FEEL THAT?
DID YOU FEEL THAT LITTLE VIBRATION RUNNING THROUGH THE SHIP'S HULL?
THAT WAS SOME OF THESE POISON GRAK-HEADS GETTING A NASTY SURPRISE COURTESY OF GOOD OL'--
IT... IT CAN'T BE!
C-CASSIE?

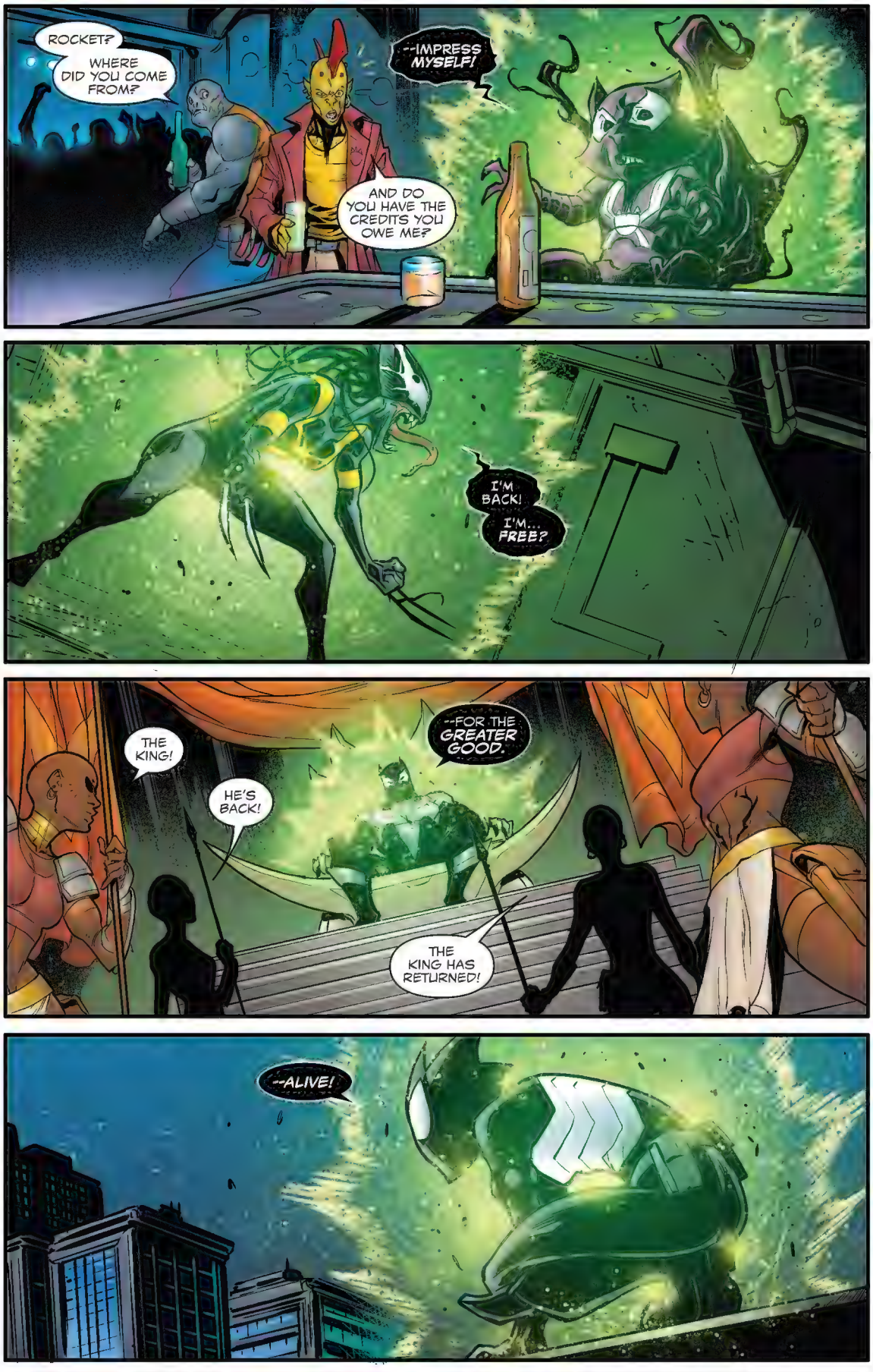
CASSIE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'VE MISSED YOU, DAD.
YOU'VE BEEN GONE SO LONG.
HOLD ON!
WAIT!
THAT AIN'T WHOEVER YOU THINK IT IS!
DAMN!
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THIS!
YOU KNOW--
--I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF SAVING YOUR SORRY HIDE.
RAAAA--
ROCKET!
ROCKET!

IT...IT HURTS!
ROCKET! I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT IT WAS CASSIE!
ROCKET, DON'T LET IT--! PLEASE!
ROCKET, PLEAAAARGH!
SNIKT
SLASH!

ARE YOU READY, ROCKET?
IS IT FINISHED?
J-JUST ABOUT.
I'VE REWIRED THE SHIP FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION.
I'VE TURNED THE WHOLE THING INTO ONE BIG BOMB.
GOOD.
THEN I SAY WE SET IT OFF...
...AND YOU SEND US HOME BEFORE WE GET CAUGHT IN THE BLOWBACK.
I CANNOT.
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH YET.
I HAVE SPENT TOO MUCH--
TOO MUCH, MAYBE. BUT NOT EVERYTHING.
HOME STRETCH, DOC.
I'M NOT DYING HERE.
WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING--
--YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR CHANCE.

WELL...
...HERE GOES NOTHING.
I'D LIKE TO SAY IT WAS NICE KNOWING ALL OF YOU, BUT...
...Y'KNOW.
YEEEAAARGHH!
GO!
GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
TO SEND YOU HOME...
...IT WILL TAKE EVERYTHING THAT I...
...THAT WE...
...HAVE.
YOU KNOW...
...THERE'S NO WAY THEY'RE GONNA SAVE EITHER ONE OF US...RIGHT?
AND YOU'RE DISGUSTING, IN A COUSIN-MARRYING SERIAL KILLER KINDA WAY...
#!%& YOU.
...BUT THERE'S NO ONE I'D RATHER DIE WITH.
I ONLY PRAY...
-NNN-
...WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH...
-HRRGGH-
...TO STOP THEM.

STRANGE! THE MAGIC'S KILLING HIM! THE SPELL'S EATING HIM--
SHRA-THOOOOOOOM!
IF WE DIE HERE, THEN IT WILL BE--
DAMN! SOMETIMES I EVEN--


ROCKET?
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
AND DO YOU HAVE THE CREDITS YOU OWE ME?
--IMPRESS MYSELF!
I'M BACK!
I'M... FREE?
THE KING!
HE'S BACK!
--FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
THE KING HAS RETURNED!
--ALIVE!

HRRRN--
WE'RE...
...HOME.
PLACE LOOKS JUST LIKE IT DID WHEN I LEFT IT.
AND THAT MEANS THERE AIN'T A SCRAP TO EAT IN THE FRIDGE.
BETTER SLIP INTO OUR CIVILIAN DUDS AND GO GRAB A FEW BURGERS.
HEY, BROCK!
THE SUPER'S BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! SAYS YOU'RE WAY BEHIND ON RENT!
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?
OH, YOU KNOW...
...VISITING ALIEN PLANETS...FORMING REBELLIONS...
...SAVING THE UNIVERSE.
THE END!

WELL VERSED

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AND THAT'S THAT! Eddie Brock is back home in the Marvel Universe, safe and sound, and after six months of hard work, we've reached the end of VENOMVERSE!

As I write this, VENOMVERSE #1 has only been on sale for about 24 hours, but that short amount of time hasn't stopped you fans out there in Mighty Marveldom from sending in a bunch of letters! We'll get to those in just a moment – BUT FIRST! The creative team on this series, Cullen Bunn, Iban Coello and Matt Yackey, wanted to write a quick word or two to you fans to say "thank you" for sticking with us through this whole bombastic adventure!

Just a quick shout of thanks to all the readers who joined us on this adventure. May the symbiotic relationship we share never be severed by some low-down, dirty Poison. I've wanted to write Venom again since my tenure on the main series ended years ago, and it was an absolute honor and an absolute blast to take part in this wild story.

Cullen Bunn

Thanks to everyone who has joined us in this venomized trip! Venom was part of my childhood and It was amazing be part of this event. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Iban Coello

A big thank you to everyone who came along with us on this ride! It was a real blast working with such great talents and all the fan's feedback was amazing too. My first Venom series and I got to color ALL the Venoms, how lucky was that?

Matt Yackey

All right, that's enough outta them! BACK TO YOUR WRITING AND DRAWING BOARDS, TEAM! Let's hear from you fans out there in the Marvel Fantheon!

Dear VENOMVERSE Crew,

I wasn't around when the first Venom stories were available, so I wasn't really formally introduced. My collecting of comic books started probably when I was 10 or 11, but at that time I didn't know you could get comics from a comic book shop! So the books I collected were comprised of whatever caught my eye at the antique mall.

This is where I came upon a copy of VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #2 and I remember being blown away by it! The concept of a villain being a hero was absolutely foreign to me, I just didn't think it could be possible.

Now, years later, I have stacks on top of stacks of comics with VENOMVERSE being the most prized among all of them! I can only imagine how different my reading material would be had I not read that first Venom.

Many Thanks,
Alex L.

And thank YOU for being such a loyal Venom fan, Alex! I hope the rest of VENOMVERSE lives up to your enjoyment of the first issue!

Hello VENOM Team,

When this series was first announced I had some doubts about it.

It only took reading EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #1 to realize how unfounded those doubts were, and VENOMVERSE #1 did not disappoint.

Your choice of characters to serve as alternate Venoms has been incredibly creative, their characterization is strong, and you've gone for a simple but effective villain.

I'm more excited about VENOMVERSE than any other Marvel event, and I can't wait to read what happens next.

Sincerely,
Gareth E.

WOW! Thanks so much for the high praise, Gareth! It really means a lot whenever we hear people enjoying the work we do here at the House of Ideas, but your MOST ANTICIPATED EVENT?! Hoo boy, I know that feeling, and I hope we lived up to the hype!

Dear Venomverse team,

I'm not usually one to write in unless it's X-Men related, but WOW. VENOMVERSE #1 blew me away. Between it and VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES (especially the stories by Bunn, Okorafor and Visaggio), I'm on board for the entirety of this event.

Also, huge props on all of the artists, inkers and letterers involved. They're all on top of their game, and I can't wait to see what else is in store. Thanks for reminding me why I'm a Marvel fan!

Tyler

And thanks for reminding me why I'm a Marvel editor with your appreciation of the skill all our writers, artists and letterers bring to their craft.

Hey, Venom gang!

It's your friendly neighborhood Jesse again (wrote in on VENOM #150!). Just wanted to say I'm loving VENOMVERSE thus far after issue #1. The art that lends itself to the craziness of the story, the writing… it's awesome, all of it.

Also loved seeing Jack O'Lantern get some page-time again. Even if he got pulverized.

Loving the book, guys. You've won me over. I'm super excited for the following issues in the coming weeks!

And we'll close it out today with this special piece of fan art from one of Spidey's biggest fans, Xavier R. Check out his AWESOME creation – CARNOM!

Great work on this, Xavier, from all your pals at Marvel!

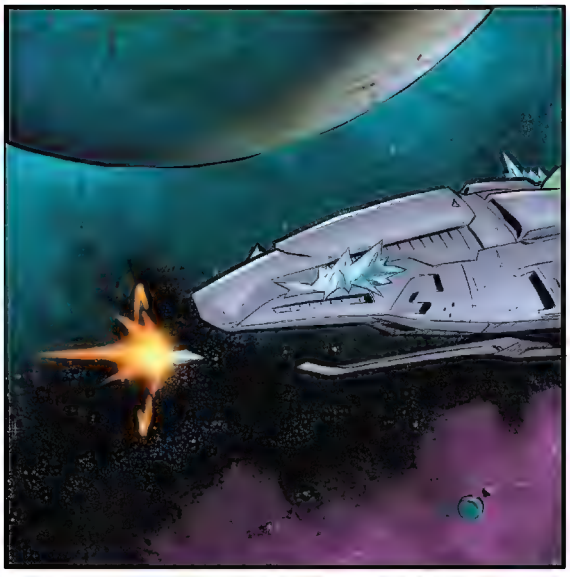
That'll do it for this one, Venomaniacs! Don't miss Venom's continuing adventures as we revisit his time as the LETHAL PROTECTOR as part of his ongoing series in MARVEL LEGACY!

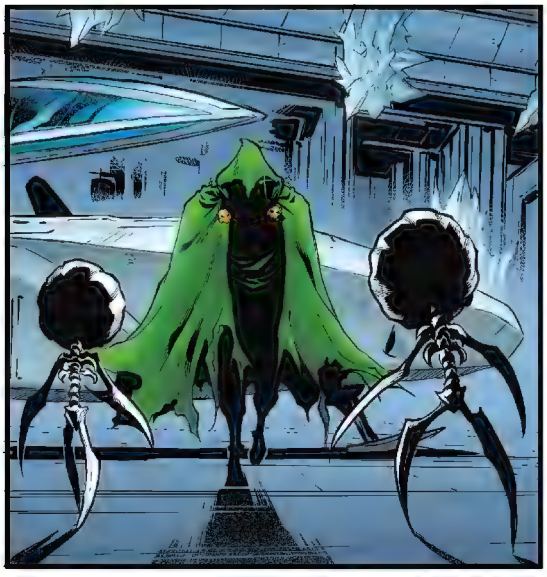
BUT WAIT! In case you hadn't noticed, there are TWO MORE PAGES to this comic book. That's right, True Believer! We're not quite outta the woods yet.

Why not take a gander at the next couple of pages and see what else might be waiting out there in the VENOMVERSE…

Over and out!

Devin
@edevinlewis



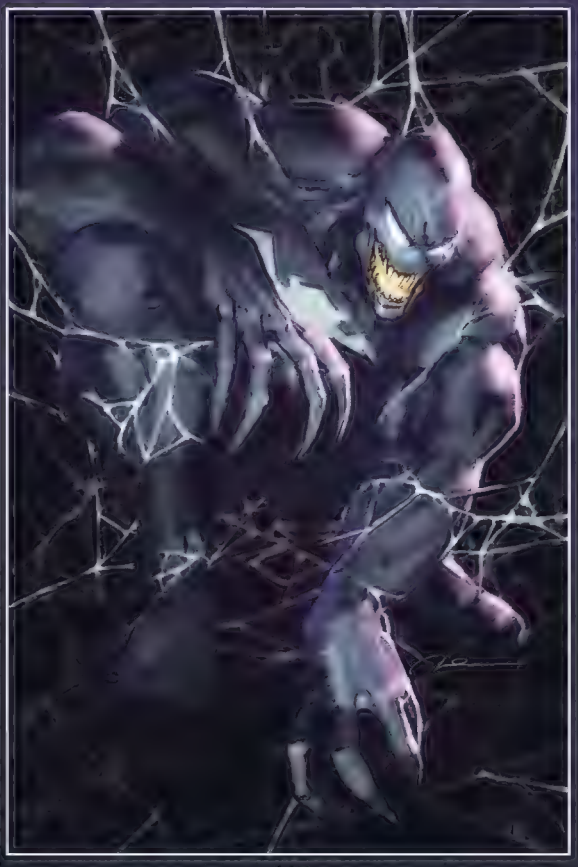


MY LORD, I--
I FAILED.
THE SORCERER WAS LOST.
IT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. THERE ARE OTHER MAGICIANS.

OUR NUMBERS ARE STILL VAST.
AND THANKS TO STRANGE AND HIS ARMY, WE KNOW THERE ARE COUNTLESS REALITIES YET TO BE FOUND.
AND WE POISONS WILL CONQUER THEM ALL!

Francesco Mattina
Edge of Venomverse #1 variant

Inhyuk Lee
Edge of Venomverse #1 variant



Gerald Parel
Edge of Venomverse #1 variant

Greg Horn
Edge of Venomverse #1 variant

Ron Lim, Roberto Poggi & Rachelle Rosenberg
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Ron Lim, John Livesay & Andrew Crossley
Edge of Venomverse #2 variant

Ron Lim, John Livesay & Jordan Boyd
Edge of Venomverse #3 variant

Ron Lim, Roberto Poggi & Jordan Boyd
Edge of Venomverse #4 variant

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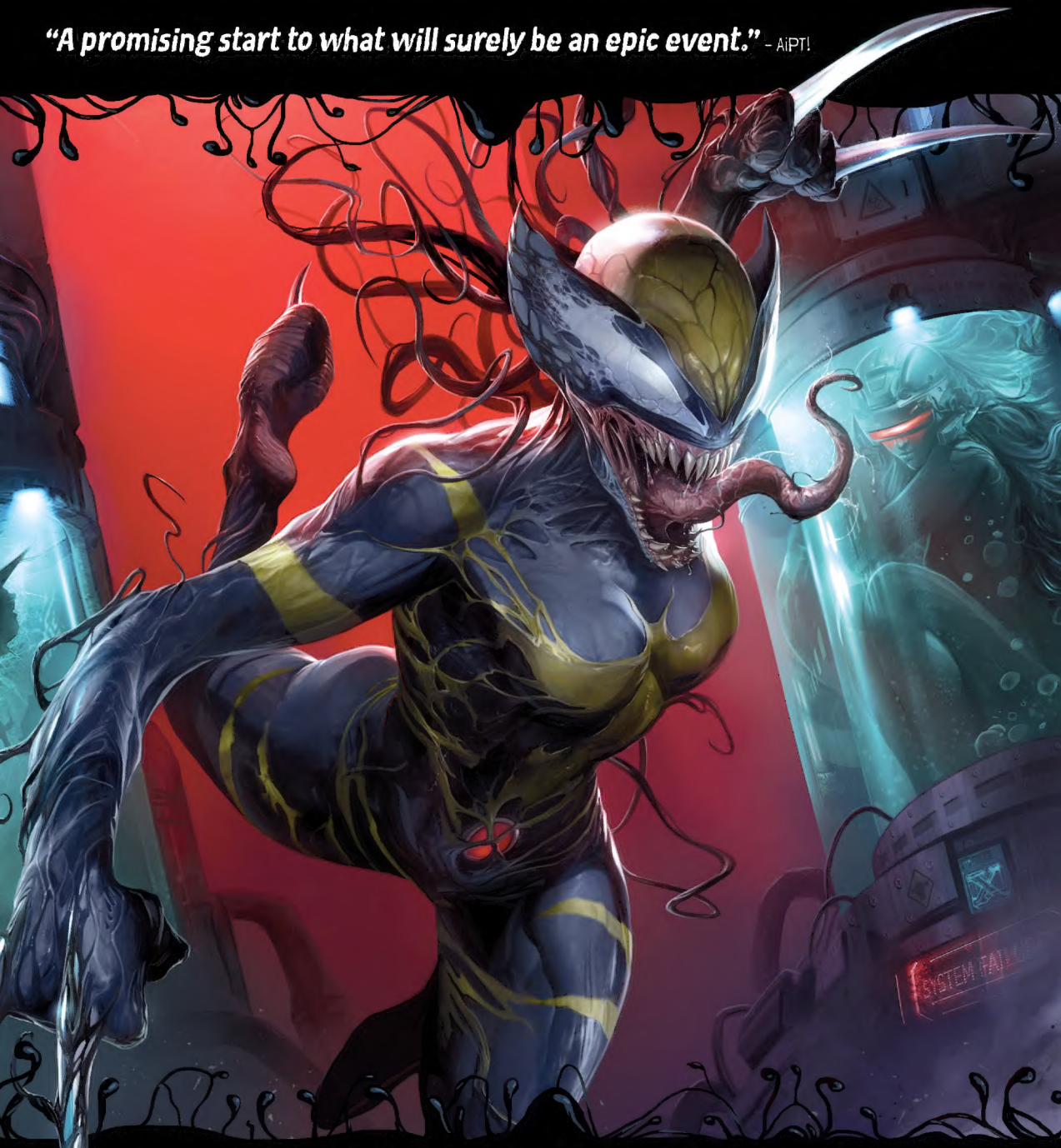
Edge of Venomverse #5 variant

Ron Lim, John Livesay & Jay David Ramos
Venomverse: War Stories #1 variant

"A promising start to what will surely be an epic event." – AiPT!



BEFORE VENOMVERSE, THERE IS

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE!

It's a symbiotic smorgasbord of stories, each featuring a major character becoming Venomized — all destined to feed into the main event itself! When the young mutant clone designated X-23 bonds with an alien parasite, can she hold it together — or is she doomed to give in to bloodlust? It's a nightmare in pink when Gwenpool turns into a sword-slinging, web-swinging master of disaster! Robbie Reyes becomes the symbiotic spirit of vengeance, the Host Rider! Years in the future, meet the lethal Wolvenom in a terrifying tale set after the epic events of the original Old Man Logan! And when Deadpool bonds with Venom, just call him the Symbiote with the Slobber! Plus: War stories featuring Venomized versions of Punisher, Rocket Raccoon and more!

Collecting ***Edge of Venomverse #1–5*** and ***Venomverse: War Stories #1*** —by Matthew Rosenberg, Christopher Hastings, Simon Spurrier, Ryan Key, Clay Chapman, Cullen Bunn, Declan Shalvey, Magdalene Visaggio, Roland Boschi, Irene Strychalski, Tigh Walker, André Lima Araújo, James Stokoe, Annapaola Martello, Declan Shalvey, Tana Ford and more.

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MARVEL

Shadowcat